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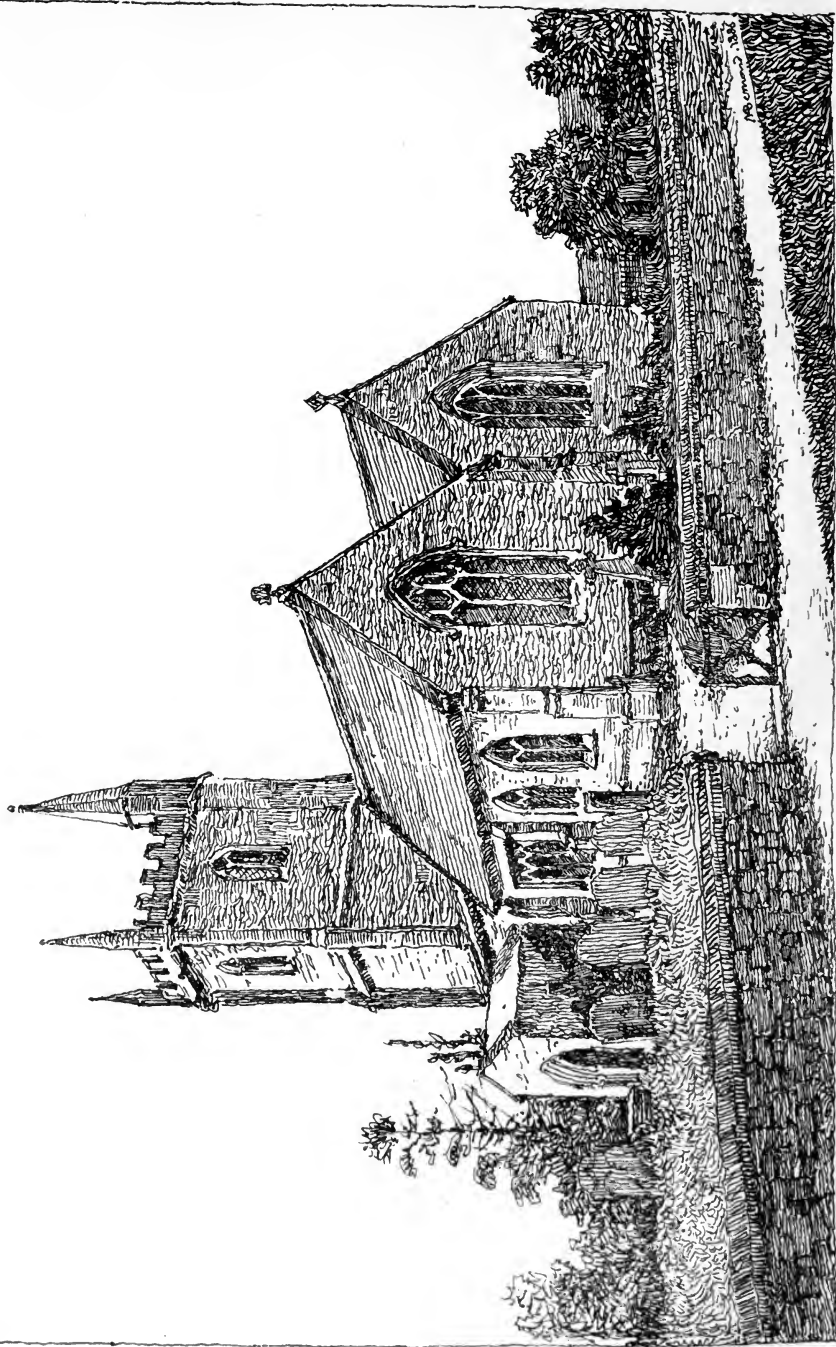


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Woakey Church. south east view. from a photograph.

J. T. Fowler

from the writer.

THE HISTORY
OF THE
PARISH AND MANOR
OF
WOOKY;

BEING A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS A FUTURE
HISTORY
OF THE
COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

BY
THOMAS SCOTT HOLMES, M.A.;
Vicar of the Parish.

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P R E F A C E.

THE following little work is an attempt to give to the parishioners of Wookey such information about the place in which they live as I have been able to gather together since I came amongst them. It does not indeed amount to very much, and yet I venture to think that it may be useful in working out the history of the parishes in the neighbourhood. For as their history, which is recorded in Phelps and Collinson, helped me to move a step further in the history of Wookey, so this advance on the County Historians may help others towards fresh discoveries. When I came here, six years ago, I naturally desired to learn all I could of the past history of the place. My first work was a careful study of our Registers. These begin with the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and are continuous down to the present time. I next copied out the Title Deeds and Lease Indentures of the church endowments, and was by their help enabled to go back from Elizabeth to Richard the Second's time. On comparing these I found that I had some information concerning the families of Wookey for the last five centuries. I could tell the names of some of those who were living here during that time, and that, of course, was something worth the knowing. And in addition I found that there were evidences here in our Records of Wookey of nearly all the Common Fields and Waste Lands of the parish. Then the Episcopal Registers at Wells provided me with information concerning the Church and the Vicars, and the Cathedral Records gave me the list of Rectors and also details of one or two of the Rectorial Leases in the 16th century. Then the Close Rolls and Patent Rolls at the Record office, as well as the Bishop's Temporalities' Papers and the Lay Subsidy Papers, provided me with the lists of Lords of the Manor, the sale of the Church Lands and the names of many more of the inhabitants at different periods. The Hutton MSS. at the British Museum were specially useful in helping me to find several interesting facts concerning our parish, which facts I afterwards verified by studying the Original Registers themselves at Wells. But of all the sources of information, other than those here in Wookey, none were so useful as the many Court Rolls of the Manors of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, which are now preserved at the Archiepiscopal Library at Lambeth. The second chapter in this book will shew to what a large extent I am indebted to them. Nearly all the customs of the Manor in the 15th century, a large number of the villeins, and a good list of field names I obtained from their study, and with them my search, practically, came to an end. These were the principal sources

of the information that this work contains. Now it is clear that the history of a parish would be incomplete unless it gave some account of the history of the lands of a parish. We ought to be able to say as we stand in any field in the place whether that field formed part of the manor or was glebe land of the church from immemorial times; and not only this, but also to say whether it was part of the Common Fields of the settlement or of the waste lands, or moors that have been enclosed and apportioned within well known periods. But this is not enough. We ought to be able to trace the history of the owners of the land, and the changes of ownership that have taken place. We ought to be able to state something at any rate generally as to the tenants of the lands from time to time. Who were the villein tenants in the days of villenage? Who were the principal leaseholders when the days of villenage had passed away? Of course we cannot say who occupied a particular plot of land, for, except certain well known plots around a well known house, all other lands would be grouped under the head of the common lands. A villein would have so many half-acre strips in the East Field, and so many in the West, and so many in the North Field. These strips would be defined as lying between those of other known villeins. The Rector's property in the East Field is described simply as that which lay between two strips of the bishop. Naturally in time these strips would become well known, and each house would have attached to it a fixed number of strips in each of the common fields and definite rights on the Lammas Meadows and on the Waste Lands. But, at first, each set of strips would be allotted among the tenants according to some recognised arrangement, and at one of the quarterly hall-motes of the Manor. On this account we cannot easily say who it was that at any particular period occupied any definite set of fields or strips of lands; but our hall-mote minutes help us very materially in telling the names of the principal inhabitants from the 14th century down to the present time. And the information we may glean from them is to this effect, that a very large percentage of the present residents of Wookey is in direct descent from the tenants of the manor, and apparently from those tenants that were in a state of villenage. And this can hardly be otherwise since no great commercial enterprise has caused any sudden increase of the population. When men were living in villenage they had not the power to change their residence, and when those days of villenage were over, if a man was successful in his farming, there was no reason for him to change, and if he had sunk into poverty the overseers of other parishes took good care that he should not move away from the place where he was domiciled. The information then which I have collected here will shew, I venture to think, that the history of our parish is one of gradual progress from an earlier social state. There are no blank pages. There are few periods of rest or retrograde motion. We cannot sever the church from the manor, or the manor from the tenants on

it ; the church, which, in earlier days, was probably built by the lord of the manor, is in turn enriched by the offerings of his tenants. The villeins of the 14th century became the Church Trustees and the Church Wardens of the 16th century. It is this oneness of our history that I hope will be evident to those who read this little book.

One remark it is necessary to make on the spelling of the names of the inhabitants. In the first of the two indices, every name is placed in its proper position according to its spelling. It must not be supposed that on this account I regard the various spellings as denoting various persons. If I had stopped at some particular time, I might have come to some decision on the spelling, and made that spelling uniform through the book. But this I found to be more difficult than I cared to undertake, and especially so since we go on from our earlier notices down to the present day. I have therefore adhered to this rule, that wherever I quoted a document I gave the exact spelling of the name in that document, and I leave to the reader the duty of deciding whether the contemporary varieties of names belong to one or to different individuals. In hardly any case will a difficulty arise. It is vain to regret that my information was not fuller and more perfect. No one would have rejoiced more than the writer had it been so ; and yet what is here recorded proves that even a little country village has a history which is worth knowing, and therefore worth writing.

I have to thank many friends for valuable hints, and among them I must mention especially, the Rev. J. T. Fowler, of Durham, the Rev. H. B. Hyde, of St. Mary, Newington, and Mr. F. H. Dickinson, of Kingsweston.

ERRATA.

Page 33, line 25, for *liberationem* read *liberacione*.

„ 34 „ 9, perhaps *Clyvedon* is the proper reading.

„ 39 „ 27, for *Huchyus* read *Huchyns*.

„ 90 „ 29, for *Alliwell* read *Attwell*.

„ 122 „ 19, 20, & 22, for *Duffe* read *Luffe*.

„ „ „ 23, for *Were* read *Weare*.

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CHAPTER I.

HISTORY OF THE PARISH.

THE parish of Wookey cannot claim that charter of antiquity which a reference in King William's Great Survey gives to some of its more favoured but less interesting companions. But as we can account for the omission, there is no very great reason why we should distress ourselves on that score. In 1065 Edward the Confessor gave to Bishop Giso fifty hides of land in the neighbourhood of Wells as an endowment for himself and the church of St. Andrew. These fifty hides of land amount now to some 21,988 acres, and include the whole of the present parish of Wells, with portions of Binegar and Dinder, and the whole of the parishes of Wookey and Priddy. But in the time of Giso much of this consisted of barren hill and moorland, and more than a thousand acres was wood or forest land, and not one half was good arable or pasture land. The whole of it was called the territory or manor of Wells, and in it our parish was hidden. There is, however, a charter which claims to be original, and which probably is a copy of an earlier one, which gives the details of this gift of Edward to Giso.¹ It records the existence of fifty hamlets or wicks within the territory of Wells, and mentions six of the present districts of our parish, viz., Woky, Henton, Gyrdleg, Bledenhyth, Wokyhole and Æbbewyrth. The parish now consists of 3,421 acres of arable and pasture land. It derives its name from the great natural cave in the southern slope of the Mendip hills, from which issue the waters of the river Axe. The word Wookey is probably derived from Wocob or Wocov, which is equivalent to the present Welsh word "gogof" or "ogo," a cave.²

On the east and north-east the parish is bounded by the river Axe, and a straight line drawn from the Hole at Wookey hole northwards towards Priddy Church. This eastern boundary

¹ Kemble, Cod. Dipl. 816.

² c. f. "Wookey," chap. ix.

of the parish is worthy of notice, because, as the late Dr. Guest¹ conjectured, it seems for a time to have been the boundary between the Saxon kingdom of Ceawlin and the British kingdoms of Conmael and Kyndylan. In 577 Ceawlin conquered these kings at the battle of Deorham, and seized all the Mendip land west of a line drawn from Wookey-hole to Bath, being bounded on the south by the Axe in its course from Wookey to the sea. Thus while Wookey was part of the land of the Saxons, Wells was in the hands of the British, and the river Axe has the fame of being the border river between the English and the Welsh from the year 577 to 658, and in that year Cenwealh, by his victory at Pen, extended the boundary of the West Saxon kingdom to the river Parrett.

As the Axe turns westward and meets the bishop's demesne land near the church, the parish crosses the river and stretches south to the mill stream. It then crosses over the western half of Ben Knowle, and skirts the moor as far as Castle, which is its southmost limit. It then takes a turn westward, and includes portions of the moors south of Henbury and Callowhill as far as Beggarly-leaze. Here turning northward, and clinging to the high ground that looks westward over Bleadonhay Causeway, it joins the mill-stream, and keeps along its eastern bank until the river Axe is met again in Knowle moor, near Marchay. Here turning eastward, it follows the southern bank of the Axe as far as Knowle Bridge and Hornsmead, where it strikes across the moor north of Barley Batch, and mounting the high ground above Stroud, dips down again under Greenland's Bush and over Marley Mead, northward up the west side of Ebbor to the neighbourhood of Priddy Church. These are the present limits of the parish, but in the time of William the Conqueror and Bishop Giso all the moorland was more or less a swamp and useless, and the land that was capable of being cultivated was to be found only on the slopes of the hills and the high ground near the church, or above Yarley and Henley. From Trenley to the river, and as far west as Knowle, there was a waste and swampy moor. Knowle Hill was isolated,

¹ Guest, *Orig. Celt.* 2, 242.

and it was not always easy to get to it over Wet-moor from Yarley. In the bishops' time, and up to the year 1548, in the reign of Edward VI., the greater part of this was waste land, belonging to the bishops as lords of the manor of Wookey unenclosed, but reserved for him and his tenants to place on it any of their live stock. The name of Preywater marks the spot to which once a year the cattle and sheep were brought for identification; and marking as it does the eastern limit of one of the common lands, it shews how the houses of Wookey were crowded round the church and the manor house, and were separated from the hamlets of Wookey hole and Yarley by common fields and waste lands. Oare marks the boundary of the Yarley hamlet, and from there to the manor house no other building existed. Lin-moor tells us of the time when Knowle-moor had not been drained and enclosed, and when, to the west of it the ground was too dangerous for cattle to be allowed to stray on it. Now when mentioning the common lands of Wookey, care must be taken to distinguish between such as was waste land and such as was held in common by the lord of the manor and his customary tenants. And it must be borne in mind that the waste lands were gradually changing into the common pasture, meadow or arable lands. In title deeds of the 16th and 17th century, belonging to the church, several of these are mentioned. As far as Wookey was concerned, these common fields referred to, are called the Westfield, the Northfield, and the Eastfield. Whether the Eastfield was one portion of ground, or was the name given to several plots of common land, I cannot say. But all the southern slopes of Henley hill were in it, and it extended as far as Buttice lane. All the land in front of Eastcourt House was in it. In 1438 we find the rectors of Wookey in possession of a strip of this land, viz., that which at present is part of the vicarial glebe, and as usual it is described between two similar strips belonging to the Bishops of Bath and Wells, one on either side of it. Judging from this one, and supposing all the strips were about the same size, each strip would contain about two acres. The Westfield was bounded by the river on the south, and the road

to Knowl hill on the north, and stretched from the village as far as the meeting point of the river and the road. The North-field comprised all the land north-west of Henley hill, and was bounded on the east by Hurst batch, on the north by Wurt hill, and on the west by Easton hill. It included the land known as Marley mead and Gagley mead. These were the common fields of Wookey. But in addition to these there were common fields for the inhabitants of Yarley and of Wookey-hole. For Yarley there was the land around Worth, which was commonly called Worth field, and on the hill above there were the arable fields called Goarway field and Sheaf field, together with the greater part of the lord's overland. Wookey-hole seems to have made use of Marley mead. Of course the customary tenants of the Dean and Chapter of Wells, living as they did on the other side of the river, had for the most part to find pasture and arable land in the out parish of S. Cuthbert. In addition to these common fields, there were the waste lands for each hamlet, and into these the tenants would turn their pigs and stock cattle. The waste land for Wookey was over Trenley and Rushlands, and probably also the land south of the river as far as Oare and Wester's grave. For Yarley there was Lin-moor, Wet-moor, and those fields called Mylham, near the bridge at Monksford, which are referred to, as late as 1770, as being in the waste ground of Wookey. This system, by which each house in the manor would have certain strips of common land attached to it, dates from a very early period of English history, and was admirably adapted at first for giving every man an interest in the cultivation of the ground. But practically as early as the 14th century the strips in the common fields, the virgates and half virgates of the customary tenants, were bought and sold and bequeathed as if they were freeholds, and without reference to any house in the parish. Oxenleaze, north-west of Knowl farm, seems to have been part of the enclosed land attached to that house. During the 17th century other portions of the waste lands were enclosed; and among them we may include those moor lands which are called Hornsmead, Ash-moor, Beggarly-leaze, as well as Wet-moor.

The enclosure itself was gradual and inevitable, and began as early as the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The lord of the manor would have a greater right over the waste lands and moor lands of the parish than he would over the common fields, and this right being more or less undefined, would be purchased by the leaseholders for a nominal sum. In 1782 the final enclosure took place. The manor had been sold in separate lots a few years previously, and as there were no customary tenants, neither was there any lord of the manor. Consequently a dispute soon arose as to the ownership of the common rights of the remaining moors within the parish, and, to settle the dispute, commissioners were appointed by a private Act of Parliament to apportion and assess the reclaimed land among the freeholders of the parish. This was not uncommon about that time, and in many parishes the moors were now enclosed and allotted. Out of the 1,192 acres of new land, the old freeholders of Wookey got 640 acres. A new road, called Dursden road, was made from Rodney Stoke to Old Down through that part of Wookey which was in the old forest of Mendip. The moors that were then enclosed are now known as Knowle-moor, Bleadeney-moor, Ash-moor, Godney-moor, Beggarly-leaze, Hay-moor, and Rowden's moor.

The river Axe was the source of some wealth to the bishops. William of Worcester visited this neighbourhood with Symon Simeon about the year 1470, and gives a description of the fishes to be caught in it, and the controversy which had arisen between Bishop Bekynton and the people of Wells concerning the right of fishing. He confounds, however, the Croscombe water, which runs past Wells, and past Castle, and joins the Brue below Meare, with the Axe which runs through Knowle-moor, and has its own outlet into the sea a little north of Brean Down. He enumerates the following fishes as being caught by the Wells people, and probably the same catalogue will answer for both rivers. They were trout, bull-heads or miller's thumbs, loach, small pike, perch or sticklebacks, crayfish, eels and flounders. The wonders of the cave at Wookey-hole seem to have especially struck him,

his account of it being as follows :—" Below the parish at Wookey-hole, about half a mile from Wells, there is a certain narrow entrance (into the rock) where at the beginning is an image of a man who goes by the name of the porter, and it is the duty of the people who desire to enter the hall of Woky to ask permission of the porter, and they carry in their hands torches, which are called in English 'shevys of reed-sedge,' for the purpose of lighting up the hall. The hall is about as large as Westminster Hall, and there hangs from the vaulted roof wonderful pendula of stone. The passage from the entrance to the hall is about half a furlong long, and is arched with stones of plane work hanging down from the roof. And there is a certain broad piece of water between the 'tresance' and the hall for the distance of five stepping stones, which stepping passage is about twenty feet wide, and if a man goes beyond the stepping stones he falls into the water, which is on all sides about five or six feet deep.

"There is a kitchen in a chamber near the entrance to the hall of an immense breadth, and roofed in stone. There is also a chamber called an ost, for the purpose of drying barley grain to make beer, &c., and the figure of a woman is there clad, and holding in her girdle a spinning distaff.

"And thence people pass on about a hundred paces, and a man may go along it with dry feet over the stones. And then the chamber called the parlour follows, which is a round apartment built of huge rocks, about twenty paces broad, and in the northern part of the said parlour there is what is called in English a 'holie-hole,' and in the said well, which is fairly arched over, there is abundance of the clearest water, the depth of which water no one is able to say. Moreover, from the said Woky-hole comes forth a great torrent, which runs into the mere, near Glastonbury, for the space of two miles."

In addition to this account by William of Worcester, there are two more descriptions given by 17th century antiquaries, which are more or less interesting.

Camden, in his *Britannia*, says, "Among these hills, *i.e.* the Mendip hills, there is a cave or den far within the ground, wherein are to be seen certain pits and riverets. The place they call Ochie-hole, whereof the inhabitants feign no fewer tales, nor devise less dotages than the Italians did of their Sibyl's cave in the mountain Apenninus. The name no doubt grew of Ogo, a British word that betokeneth a den "

Drayton (1612), in his *Polyolbion*, a poetical description of the wonders of England, says—

" Yet Ochie's dreadful hole still held herself disgrac't
With th' wonders of this isle that she should not be plac'd
But that which vext her most, was, that the Peakish Cave
Before her darksome self such dignity should have
And th' Wyches for their saltes such dignities should take
Or Cheshire should prefer her sad death boding lake
And Stonendge in the world should get so high respect
Which imitating art but idly did erect.

We must not forget to add that Clement of Alexandria early in the third century, is supposed by some to refer to this cave in a well-known passage of the *Stromata*. Writing there of the thunders of Sinai and the Jewish records of God's appearances to Moses and the prophets, he says that these records were copied by the Greeks, and to prove that God is everywhere, he records several mysterious phenomena, and then says, "*Λέγουσι δὲ καὶ οἱ τὰς ἱστορίας συνταξάμενοι, ἀμφὶ τὴν Βρεταννικὴν νῆσον ἄντρον τι ὑποκείμενον ὄρει· ἐπὶ δὲ τῆς κορυφῆς χάσμα· ἐμπίπτοντος οὖν τοῦ ἀνέμου εἰς τὸ ἄντρον, καὶ προσρηγνυμένου τοῖς κόλποις τοῦ ὀρύγματος, κυμβάλων εὐρύθμως κρονομένων ἤχον ἐξάκουεσθαι.*" Ed. Potter. 756.

Now it will probably have been noticed that hitherto I have said nothing about the celebrated witch of Wookey-hole. Neither Camden or Drayton say anything about her, but William of Worcester records the existence of a stalagmite within the cavern, which may be described as the figure of a woman, clad and holding in her girdle a spinning distaff. This natural formation gave rise, I think, to the legend of the witch, and was not observed after a previous knowledge of that legend. The earliest record of it that I can find is the poem by Dr. Harrington, of Bath, which was written by him about 1748, and first published in

1756, in a volume called "Euthemia, or the Power of Harmony." A version of it is given by Bishop Percy in his *Reliques of English Poetry*, and is as follows:—

"In ancient days tradition shewes,
A base and wicked elf arose,
The Witch of Wokey hight :
Oft have I heard the fearful tale
From Sue, and Roger of the vale,
On some long winter's night.

Deep in the dreary dismal cell,
Which seemed and was ycleped hell,
This blear-eyed hag did hide :
Nine wicked elves, as legends sayne,
She chose to form her guardian trayne,
And kennel near her side.

Here screeching owls oft made their nest,
While wolves its craggy sides possest,
Night howling through the rock ;
No wholesome herb could there be found ;
She blasted every plant around,
And blistered every flock.

Her haggard face was foul to see ;
Her mouth unmeet a mouth to bee
Her eyne of deadly leer ;
She nought devised but neighbour's ill,
She wreaked on all her wayward will,
And marred all goodly cheer.

All in her prime have poets sung,
No gaudy youth, gallant and young,
E'er blest her longing armes :
And hence arose her spight to vex,
And blast the youth of either sex,
By dint of hellish charms.

From Glaston came a lerned wight,
Full bent to marr her fell despight,
And well he did, I ween :
Sich mischief never had been known,
And, since his mickle lerninge shown,
Sich mischief ne'er has been.

He chaunted out his godlie booke,
He crost the water, blest the brooke,
Then—pater noster done,
The ghastly hag he sprinkled o'er ;
When lo ! where stood a hag before,
Now stood a ghastly stone.

Full well 'tis known adown the dale,
 Tho' passing strange indeed the tale,
 And doubtful may appear,
 I'm bold to say, there's never a one,
 That has not seen the witch in stone,
 With all her household gear.

But tho' this lerned clerke did well ;
 With grieved heart, alas ! I tell
 She left her curse behind :
 That Wokey nymphs forsaken quite,
 Tho' sense and beauty both unite,
 Should find no leman kind.

For lo ! even, as the fiend did say,
 The sex have found it to this day,
 That men are wondrous scant ;
 Here's beauty, wit, and sense combined,
 With all that's good and virtuous join'd,
 Yet hardly one gallant.

Shall then sich maids unpitied moane ?
 They might as well, like her, be stone,
 As thus forsaken dwell.
 Since Glaston now can boast no clerks ;
 Come down from Oxenford, ye sparks,
 And oh ! revoke the spell.

Yet stay, nor thus despond, ye fair
 Virtue's the god's peculiar care ;
 I hear the gracious voice :
 Your sex shall soon be blest again,
 We only wait to find sich men,
 As best deserve your choice.

Now the word "witch" or "wych" means a hole or break in the rocks, and to this day it is used for the cavern or basin, out of which the river Axe flows, and old inhabitants still speak of the "Wookey-hole-witch," three words all having the same signification, as "the hole" from which the water issues, and so clearly preserve the original sense of the word.

About a mile from Wookey-hole the river is diverted from its natural bed and kept in an artificial channel on the high ground for the purpose of acting as a mill stream. This diversion is of great antiquity, but I have not been able as yet to find any account of its formation. Whether any of the four mills that the bishop had on his demesne at this time of Domesday is represented now by the Burcot or Bledeney mills, is a question

well worthy of research, the answer to which I shall make every effort to discover. The water from this stream was used to fill the moat around the manor house, and therefore the aqueduct is anterior to the fortifying of the house. What I know about the mills I will mention in the history of the manor.

We come then to the second peculiarity of Wookey, which seemed worthy of notice by 16th and 17th century antiquaries. If William of Worcester, in 1470, and Camden in 1610, and Drayton in his *Polyolbion* in 1612, are struck with the wonders of Wookey-hole, Leland, in 1546, and William of Worcester also before him are careful to mention the ancient earthwork at Castle. In early times it clearly was a fortified outpost of the British or the Saxons. It is an isolated hill, with two peaks, the larger one evidently having been scarped and strengthened by a ditch running between the two peaks, and making the southern top a sort of citadel or place of refuge whenever the ramparts of the first should be broken in. It is situated about half a mile from the high ground of Hembury wood, in the moor that reaches from Wookey to Meare. William of Worcester says that "near Wells, about a mile and a half westward "towards the mere, there is a castle called Fenny Castle. It is a "ruin, and had been built of stones, and traces of the offices of "the house are now visible."

Leland says "there is a Castelle on an hill in this meadow "about Croscombe water whose ruins are still visible. It is "commonly called Fenny Castelle."

The Croscombe water now runs to the north of it, but formerly it ran round it east, south and west, and brought the hill into the parish. It is now in the out parish of S. Cuthbert. To the north-east, about a quarter of a mile away, and just under Ben Knowl, there is a small field which now goes by the name of Battlebury, and both at Castle and in this field human remains have been found. Dr. Guest told us, as I have said before, that the Axe was the boundary between the British and the West Saxon kingdoms from 577-658 A.D. But I think, on examining the ground of this parish, this statement requires to be somewhat

modified. As far as the land between Wookey-hole and Burcot is concerned this was possibly the case. But when the Axe got down into the moors, it must have lost itself in a morass, or at least its banks must have been so low and swampy as quite to prevent it from being a boundary line from Wookey to Wedmore. The southern limit of the West Saxon kingdom must have been then either the line of the Mendip hills as far as Crook's Peak, or else it must have crossed the Axe at Burcot, and clung to the low line of hills which, with one gap at Bleadeney, extends from Ben Knowl to Blackford. Now at Wester's Grave there is a narrow lane which mounts the hill just north of Henbury wood. This lane at the top of the hill has clearly been deflected from its original course. For it evidently continued a straight course on top of the hill until it dipt down at Bleadeney into the moor. Two facts prove the former existence of this lane, even where now it is hard to trace it. First in the earlier parish map there is a foot-path marked down exactly in the position that the lane must have taken: and secondly it was just the path that was necessary to give access to the common fields at the top of the hill, Goarway fields, and the Sheaf fields; in fact, it would be the gore way to one of the common fields. By the side of this lane at the Wookey end there are two fields that bear the name Cold Harbour; and at the Bleadeney end there are three that open out on to it, which bear the name Harepits; and just east of Barrow hill there is a field called Cadbury. Barrow hill itself is not unlike Castle hill, and has evidently been partly severed from the hills to the east of it. At the bottom of Hudswell, west of Barrow hill, and at the extremity of this lane there was dug out from the moor a short time ago a large oak pile, which was part of an earlier causeway over the moor, parallel to the present road, but somewhat south of it. This causeway stretched out to the western Barrow hill, and then on again to Pamborough, in the parish of Wedmore. The lane then appears once more, and may be traced on the top of the hills, through Mudgley as far as Blackford, *i.e.* right across the parish of Wedmore. And in the line of this path there are two fields called Harepits, and one called Hareacre.

We have then, I think, sufficient evidence to enable us to say that there was an ancient road or path, perhaps British, and certainly Saxon, running right across the parish from Ben Knowl to Bledeney. And the existence in its neighbourhood of Castle hill and Barrow hill, Battlebury and Cadbury, fall in with the supposition that it had been a British road, and afterwards was a Saxon war-path, and for nearly a hundred years was part of the march lands of the West Saxons. I have found nothing that would indicate its possession by the Romans, but the whole range of hills abounds in Saxon and Celto-Saxon names, a list of which I give in a future chapter.

We return then to the neighbourhood of Castle hill, near which was a wayside cross in the bishops' times, the basement of which is still visible in the hedge in front of Mr. W. Brown's house. The cross marked the boundary of the parish in this direction, and the nearest point of firm land between the Castle hill and the southern slope of Henbury hill. Forty years ago, and even later, there was an old house on the same side of the road, which was then in the possession of Francis Sheppard, and was formerly, I think, the house of one of the customary tenants, who looked after the bishop's rights on the great southern moor.

In bishop Drokenesford's Register (p. 255) at Wells, there is to be seen an interesting account of the attempt made by certain commissioners of the bishop to excommunicate some people in the neighbourhood of Castle. But the document is very tantalizing from the many interesting details it omits to give. Bishop Drokenesford, being lord of the manor of Wookey, claimed certain rights and privileges over the moor there. Perhaps his predecessors did also, but their registers are no longer in existence, and so we cannot tell exactly the history of the quarrel. But to strengthen his rights bishop Drokenesford seems to have erected at Castle certain embankments and sluices to protect the ecclesiastical lands from the floods. Whether his action was understood by the Wookey people as evidence of his intention to erect a mill there, or whether it was his first step towards reclaiming the land, and depriving his customary tenants of their rights on the common

moor land, I cannot say. But bishop Drokenford is very much annoyed to find that certain "sons of iniquity" have invaded his new earthworks, and irreverently upturned them, and thereby have endangered the salvation of their souls. Their names unfortunately are not known, or rather I suspect it was found convenient not to know who did it. However William, the vicar of Doultling, and William, the vicar of Pilton, received orders to go and excommunicate them, and cite them to appear on S. Paul's day, June 30th, 1326, before the bishop at Wells. Now it is only natural that the brothers William would desire to be excused from trusting themselves in the neighbourhood of Castle. If the people had been so wicked as to pull down the bishop's work, they might be inclined, when the vicars of Doultling and Pilton, came to curse them with bell, book and candle from the hillside of Henbury, to resent their visit, and do some violence to their sacred persons. So attached to the original note in the register, which, by the way, tells us that the document was issued from the manor house at Wookey, is an appendix. The brothers William are still to excommunicate these sons of wickedness, but they are to do it now from the altar steps of the churches of Doultling and Pilton, and the citation is quietly dropped. Brother William, vicar of Wookey, gets out of the unpleasant duty altogether.

The parish, as far as I can discover, has no public history, but in every century it reflects faithfully the social and religious changes that occurred throughout the country. No great battle of which we have any documentary evidence was ever fought here. Certainly in a field near Wookey-hole there was dug up in the time of Henry VIII. a lead tablet, which contained the inscription of a trophy which probably had been fixed up on one of the neighbouring hills. The inscription was—

TI·CLAVDIVS·CAE.
SAR·AVG·P·M.
TRIB·P·VIII·IMP.
XVI·DE·BRITAN.

and it is supposed to belong to one of the two trophies erected

by Claudius to commemorate the defeat of the Cangi by the propaetor Ostorius, A.D. 49.

Alfred must have marched along the road on top of Henbury and Yarley on his way from Wedmore eastward. The monks of Glastonbury would make their way past Barrow hill to their outlying tything of Nyland. When the church property was confiscated in Henry VIII.'s and Edward VI.'s time, the manor goes to a London citizen, William Dunche, and the lands at Wookey-hole, which belonged to the Friary at Witham, were, it seems probable, granted first to John Smyth,¹ and then in Philip and Mary's reign to John Waldram.² It seems as if the Crown had revoked the grant to John Smith, and having leased the Witham property to John Bultings, of Westbury, then granted the freehold to John Waldram, 3 and 4 Philip and Mary, June 2.

The tenement of the hospital of S. John stood on the site of Mrs. Salmon's cottage, west of the Church Barton, and as late as 1587 is spoken of as in the possession of Queen Elizabeth.

When men were complaining in Elizabeth's reign because the lords enclosed the common lands, and turned their arable fields into vast pasture lands, we find here the public spirited rector, Mr. Subdean Boureman, leaving money to be lent on easy terms to the farmers of the place for the purchase of ploughs. When England was bitterly persecuting the Romanists in the times of the earlier Stuarts, Wookey carefully excludes from all parochial office the tenant of the rectory, because he is a recusant, and as such we find Mr. Robert Godwin paying the usual tax. At the Reformation and under the Commonwealth we lose our vicars, and in Edward VI.'s reign our free chapel of Henton is pulled down, apparently without any authority, by an enterprising native, who doubtless expected that he would never be called to account. The changes in the relationship existing between the lord of the manor and his tenants will be considered in another chapter; it is sufficient here to remark that they follow the

¹ Particulars of Grants, Ed. VI., P. and M.

² Harl MSS. B.M. 606, p. 128.

usual course, which in every age may be noted throughout the land. It is of interest, however, to compare the population of the place from time to time, and though no definite information is forthcoming, I am inclined to think that the population was never so great as during the reign of George III. During the Commonwealth it was estimated that Wookey consisted of 130 families, or about 650 people. In 1822 there were 190 inhabited houses and 223 families, of whom 147 were employed in agriculture. The population in 1801 was 740: in 1811, 859; in 1821, 1,040. In 1861 there were 1,129 inhabitants; in 1871 the population rose to 1,139, and at present it consists of about 1,018 people, but it has been decreasing for some years past, and if it were not for the existence of the paper mills at Wookey-hole, that decrease would be much more marked. The Lay Subsidy Rolls do not give us a complete account of the inhabitants, but since they preserve the names of the persons taxed, they are very valuable as evidence of the existence of certain families in the place. I have copied four Subsidy Rolls, which gave the names of those in the parish who were wealthy enough to be taxed, and one which contains a list of people here who were too poor, and therefore were certified to be excused, and these, I think, are the only existing lists in which the names are mentioned. The first¹ is the list of the subsidy granted by Parliament, 14-15, Henry VIII. This was the memorable occasion when Wolsey came down to the Commons and demanded a property tax of twenty per cent., and was met by a silent refusal on the part of the House of Commons, backed by its Speaker, Sir Thomas More. It is a tax of a fortieth on personal property.

In Wookey we find—

William Barrowe
Nicholas Boulting
John Chapell
Thomas Clarke
Thomas Cullock
John Cuppar
Walter Edwardes

William Evans
Peter Newman
Walter Newman
John Tornar
John Wilcocke
William Wilcocke

¹ Som. Subsidy, 14-15 Hen. VIII.

In Yardley Tithing—

William Baker	William Hancock
John Bowlar	Alicia Hancock
Nicholas Browne	John Loxtone
John Bultynge	John Lyde
Joan Bultynge, widow	Thomas Lyde
Nicholas Burgeys	Thomas Merifelde
Walter Castelle	John Somerton
William Castelle	Thomas Stott
John Castelle	John Smyth
William Chapelle	John Smyth
Agnes Chapelle, widow	Walter Tornar
Thomas Churchouse	Thomas Tornar
Richard Churchouse	William Tokar
Thomas Clarke	John Tornar
John Cullocke	Robert Vyncent
John Edwards	Agnes Wyke, widow
Nicholas Edwards	Richard Wylcocke
Walter Gylle	

The date of the next subsidy is not recorded, but it belongs to the time of Edward VI.¹ It is defective, and not nearly so full as the preceding one. In Burcot we find William Yebais, Walter Panter, and John Merifield; in Wookey in order of wealth, Thomas Clarke, William Chappel, Richard Merifeld, John Wilcock, Thomas Stotte, William Tukkar, John Turner, and Nicholas Bulting.

The William Chappel that is mentioned here is the man who pulled down Henton Chapel.

The next is the subsidy of 1597,² *i.e.* 39 Elizabeth. The neighbourhood is divided into the four districts of Wookey-hole, Wookey, Burcot and Yarley.

In Wookey-hole we find mention of—

Thomas Beney	William Mumford
Agneta Beney	William Pople
John Boultinge	Johanna Wade
William Hopkins	David Wilcocke

In Burcot—

John Brock	Cyprian Joanes
John Callington	Richard Vowles
Agnes Hipsley	Thomas Whiting
John Hodge	Cyprian Whiting
Edward Horte	

1 Som. Subsidy, Edw. VI.

2 Som. Lay Subsidy 39 Eliz.

In Wookey—

John Barnard	William Millard
Anthony Burge	Thomas Stevens
Richard Buxton	William Trymme
Anthony Godwyn	John Turner
Thomas Hysley	

In Yardley—

Robert Boulting	Joanna Corpe
John Browning 1	John Collier, senr.
„ „ 2	John Dunkerton
„ „ 3	Margareta Edward, widow
Edward Browning	Richard Edward
Robert Tayler or Buxton	John Ganfielde
Wm. Burgis	Thomas Hipsley
Wm. Castle	John Hooper
John Chapple	John Lyde
Wm. Churchouse	Robert Tayler, junr.
Bartholomew Castle	Wm. Turner
Richard Cullocke	John Wilcockes

The next list is for the tax levied in 1641 by the memorable fifth Parliament of Charles I.¹

Wookey-hole—

Edward Barlowe	John Boulting, junr.
John Boulting, senr.	Joanna Wilcox, widow

Wookey—

John Barnard	Richard Lyde
John Buxton	David Trym
John Lyde	

Robert Godwyn, gent., recusant.

Poll money paid also by Mr. Robert Godwin for Ann Stone, domestic servant.

Yarley—

Robert Buxton	John Edwardæ, senr.
Robert Browning	John Edwardæ, junr
Bartholomew Castle	Edward Hipsley
Walter Castle	John James
Robert Chappell	Matthew Lyde
John Chapell	Thomas Miller
John Churchouse	Richard Sage
Thomas Churchouse	John Smith
John Corpe	John Stock
Thomas Cullock	John Turner

So far we have the lists of those who were wealthy enough to be taxed. The last probably includes all the poor, and may,

¹ Som. Subsidy, 16 Car. 1.

I think, be regarded as a complete list of those whose yearly rental was assessed under 20s., and whose personal property was not above £10, and whose houses had not more than two chimneys, with hearths and stoves in them. These are the people who, on this occasion, *i.e.* for the subsidy of 1670,¹ are certified by the vicar, churchwardens and overseers as excused through poverty, and whose names are here recorded as a memorial of the departed poor of our parish.

Wookey and Yardley—

Thomas Arney	Wm. Browning
Susan Browning	Edward Cottle
Samuel Cary	Elizabeth Lane
John Chappell	John Lloyd
The Widow Chalcraft	Thomas Ganfield
Mary Chillocke	Agnes Masters
Avice Chium	John Meriman
Jane Chappell	Edward Poole
Daniel Cary	John Shenton
Edward Collier	John Stotte
Mary Cleaves	Elizabeth Swallow
John Ellis	Anthony Turner
Robert Huntley	Joan Turner
Anthony Hellier	Stephen Weare
Wm. French	John Wills

May 10, 1671.

John Gadd, *Vicar*.

John Smith }
John Stott } *Churchwardens*.

David Cooke }
Richard Brookman } *Overseers*.

This is the latest Lay Subsidy Roll which gives us any account of Wookey; and as thirty years afterwards our rate-books begin, giving us a continuous account of the ratepayers down to the present time, it is superfluous to record any further lists of the parishioners.

The old almshouses in Wells, which were founded by Bishop Bubwith's executors in 1424, in accordance with the instructions they had received from him, possess many deeds relating to their property. Part of that property was in our parish, lying at Wookey-hole, Marley-mede, Wookey and Knowl, and as the deeds contain the names of many parishioners, some few extracts from them may not be out of place.

¹ Som. Subsidy, 1670.

In 1312, John Vuthoukes, of Woky, grants lands to John de Ellewelle.¹ Hugh atte Chapele is one of the witnesses.

In 1322, Nov. 30, Philip de Button grants to Wm. Pasturel, of Glastonbury, all the lands which Philip de Button had given him in Woky.²

In 1332, Robert Wayfer, of Wynelesle, and Margaret, his wife, leaves his lands at Knolle juxta Woky to Ralph de Schupton.³

In 1394, John Knight, of Chewton subter Mendip, grants to Thomas Tannere, burgher of Wells, $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of meadow in Marleymede.⁴

In 1427, John Alampton, Thomas atte Wode, clerici, and Henry Hogge, grant to Richard Knight, smith, of Wells, and Emeline, his wife, $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of Meadow in Marley-mede, lying between the demesne of the Bishop of Bath and Wells on the one side, and a ditch and portion of meadow belonging to Reginald Brydde on the other, being a portion of the gift of feoffment of Isabella, relict of Thomas Tannere, lately dead. This is probably one of the first leases granted by the trustees of the Almshouses, the earlier papers naturally being handed over to them when they purchased the property.⁵

In 1425, Thomas Wayfere leases to Roger Wyx, and Joanna, his wife, a fulling mill at Woky Hole for 47 years.⁶

In 1430, Thomas Wayfere leases lands at Estmore to John Beck, of Woky, and John Edward, of Yerdeley. This John Beck was tenant of the house on the east side of the Church Barton, that used to be called Strechistenement.⁷

In 1430, Thomas Wayfere leases to Walter Dylverton, of Wells, a fulling mill at Woky-hole for 92 years. This is doubtless the one before mentioned. The mill water reached from Delymakere's cottage at the bridge, as far as Wokey-hole.⁸

In 1531 this mill is in possession of the Almshouse Trustees, and is rented of them by Robert Chamberleyne. The other Almshouse tenants in Wookey are Thomas Clerk, William

¹ A. H. P. 16. ² A. H. P. 28. ³ A. H. P. 38. ⁴ A. H. P. 97.

⁵ A. H. P. 155. ⁶ A. H. P. 143. ⁷ A. H. P. 161. ⁸ A. H. P. 162.

Hancock, Nicholas Edwarde for cottages, and Walter Merchaunt and Robert Vyncent for lands.

In 1592 the tenants are William Dyrick, William Pyttina, John Pyttina, William Gorway and Edward Horte. Some of this land was only copyhold, the tenants having to pay a chief rent to the lord of the manor, in addition to the yearly rent due to the Almshouses.

When the various bridges in the parish were built I have not been able to discover, except in the case of some of the modern ones. That over the Axe at Wookey-hole is referred to in 1430. In many cases the path was merely a foot-path at the side of the road, with a wooden bridge to carry it over the stream, the road itself going right through the stream. The bridges at Monksford and Peascroft were built in 1776. At Preywater there was a bridge similar to the one at Monksford, but in 1836 some one knocked it over, and the parish erected a wooden bridge, which served as a foot path there until quite modern times. Several of the bridges being the connecting link between two parishes were the joint work of both. In 1786, when the last enclosure of the moors took place, ten bridges were built in the new roads that were made, and over the new sluices that were cut. These are now known as Tudway's, Pitney's, Band's, Barnard's, Salmon's, Beggarly-leaze, Hay-moor, Ash-moor, Herne and Furrow bridges.

In 1830 a select vestry was for the first time appointed. It was evidently an attempt to keep the affairs of the parish in the hands of a few, and to do away with some manifest objections to the publicity of an ordinary parish vestry. The first select vestry consisted of James Snelgrove, John Brown, Wm. Hill, junr, Thomas Stott, senr., Thomas Clarke, Richard Adams, Isaac Stott, of Ripple; John Stott, John Clarke, Richard Purnell and George Parsons. In 1837, two cottages which the parish had acquired on the Wedmore road, east of Oare, were sold to meet in part the parochial charges necessary to pay for the new Union-house at Wells. Previously the parishioners had rented two or three of the cottages in the Barton, which form

part of the church endowment, and these, with the two they owned, together with a judicious system of outdoor relief, supplied all the necessary requirements of the indigent and feeble.

One more remark remains before closing this chapter. The County historians speak of certain persons of the name of Wookey as distinguishing themselves in earlier days. In the Somerset Hundred Rolls of Edward I., Richard de Woky appears as a juror. Philip de Wyky occurs in the Perambulation of the Forest of Mendip in 1298, and Collinson refers to a Maurice de Woky in 1331, and a John de Woky in 1408. Certainly the name occurs in none of the deeds belonging to the parish, and only twice in the Register, and then during the time of the Commonwealth. There was no room for a family of any great importance to live here, as the bishop owned nearly the whole parish. If the family ever rose to any real importance at all, it did so in some other place. The name occurs on the bishop's manor at Evercreech towards the end of the 15th century, and in the early days of the 17th century a family named Wookey dwelt in the parish of St. Cuthbert, one at Chilcott on the north-east, and one at Wookey-hole on the north-west. But in spite of having searched very diligently, I have found nothing more concerning them in the past.

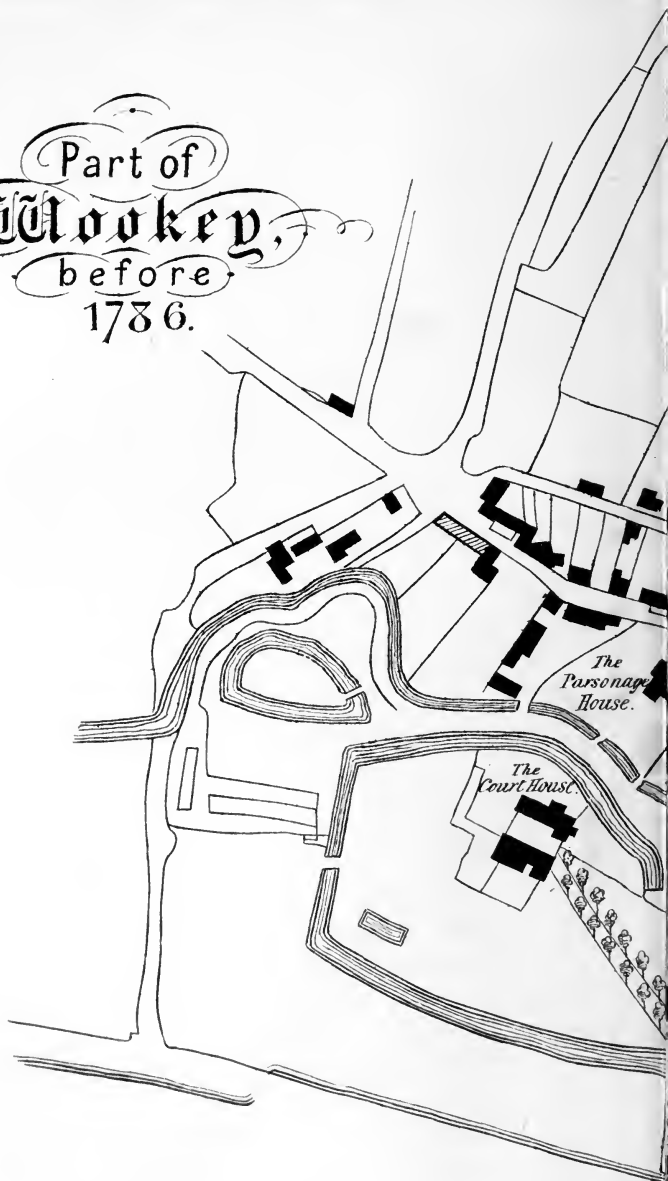
CHAPTER II.

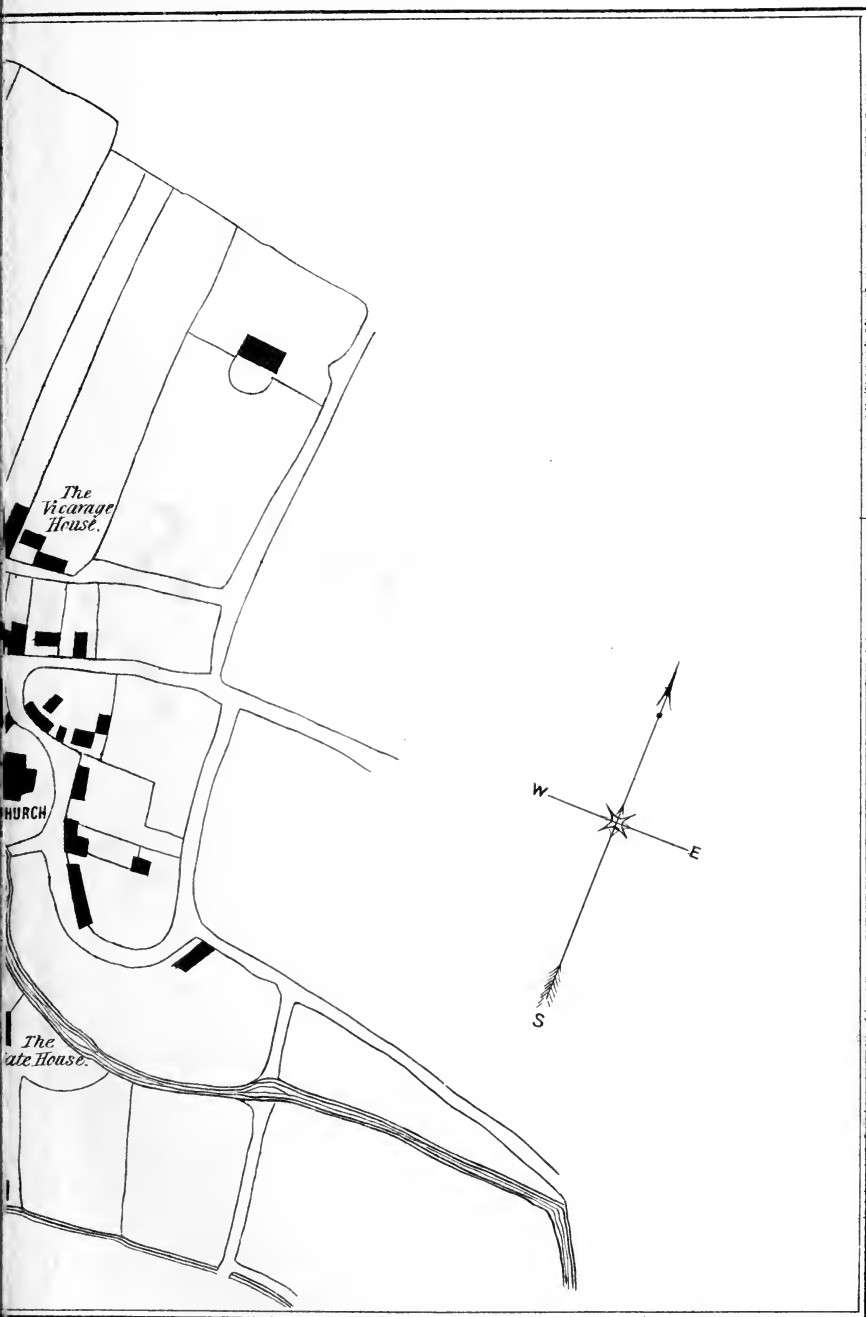
THE MANOR AND THE MANOR HOUSE.

OUT of the fifty hides of land which King Eadward gave to Bishop Giso and his church of St. Andrew in Wells, we find from Domesday that the bishop himself had eight hides in demesne; or in other words, that he cultivated, or made use of that amount himself, and assigned the rest as an endowment for the church or for some of its officers. Now what was the exact acreage of this demesne land, we cannot say; nor yet do we know how much of it was in the parish of Wookey. For since the time of the Conqueror much land in Somerset has been reclaimed from the moors, and in Wookey alone 640 acres have been added to the lands of the parish during the last two hundred years. At present Wookey contains 3,421 acres, and judging from the description of the manor in 1626, it is probable that 2,160 acres consisted of the manorial lands of the bishop, leaving a little more than a thousand acres for other freeholders. But as we may naturally suppose that some of the land of the parish was, at the time of the Domesday survey, either marshy or practically worthless, not only is our estimate of the bishop's demesne land within the parish to be reduced, but also that which remained over and in addition to it. And hence it is clear that while we have no evidence as to the position of the bishop's demesne land within the Domesday territory of Wells, we may fairly say that at any rate it included the greater part of the parish of Wookey. Now the possession of much land in any place involved the necessity for a house. For as a landowner used not then to gather his rents in money, but in kind, he would either have to carry them to the place where he usually lives, or else periodically settle down with his servants on his various demesne lands, and consume his rents at the place where they grew.



Part of
Wookey,
before
1786.







And so we soon hear of bishops' houses within the territory of Wells. One was built by Bishop John de Villula, the immediate successor of Bishop Giso, probably on what is now the site of the chapter library at Wells; and I think that not very long afterwards a bishop's house was also erected on his demesne land at Wookey. But unfortunately we have no evidence concerning this Wookey house earlier than the time of Bishop Jocelyn Troteman, 1206-1242. Of him we learn that "*Capellas cum cameris de Wells et Woky notabiliter construxit.*"¹ "He built "chapels and private chambers at Wells and at Wookey that were "worthy of notice." Now as the house he built at Wells had been preceded by an earlier one, so also, I think, was it the case at Wookey. In the present Court-farm house, which contains all that remains of the old Manor-house, there exists between the ruins of the "camera" and the chapel traces of an early hall, which seems to have been built by some bishop before the time of Bishop Jocelyn. This hall appears to have decided the relative position of those two buildings, and I think that the three, viz., the chapel, the hall, and the "camera" would hardly have been placed as they were had Jocelyn built upon vacant ground. This hall is built of local lias, and not of Doultong stone, with which the chapel and camera were constructed, and I cannot imagine that Jocelyn would have been so careful about his chapel, and so careless about his hall. As at Wells, so at Wookey, only a portion remains to be seen. We have to read our story from the traces of the foundations of the walls, or from the stones now covered afresh, probably for the hundredth time, with their protection of rough cast. There is one beautiful remnant which speaks for itself, and tells us at once that it was built by him who erected the west-end of the cathedral. It is the Early-English western door of Jocelyn's chapel. Now it leads out of a pantry into a lean-to wash-house, but then lead from a corridor, between the chapel and the hall, into a chapel which was about $20\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, but the length of which I have not discovered. Probably this corridor was the northern end of a cloister, which ran down the interior side of the eastern part of

¹ Ang. Sac., vol. 1, 564.

the Manor-house. Jocelyn's camera was south-west of this chapel, and distant from it 56 feet. Between these two buildings was this earlier one, which certainly was the hall in later times, and which, I think, was the hall then. Its length, as compared to its breadth, is remarkable: it is 44 feet long, and only 15 feet wide. All these three buildings run east and west, and the north wall of the hall was almost on a line with the north wall of the chapel. But as the chapel was wider than the hall, naturally the western door of the chapel was south of the centre-line of the hall. Between them, however, as I said before, was this corridor or cloister, running north and south, about 12 feet wide, and therefore the want of uniformity would not appear so striking as would have been the case if the two buildings had touched each other. Proceeding westward, then, through the hall, we come to a door which either led directly into the camera, or else into a cloister that ran along its northern side, and then by a second door on its north wall into the chamber itself. This building, like the chapel, projected considerably to the south of the hall; and, indeed, its northern wall is almost on a line with the southern wall of the hall. Hence these three buildings give us the outline of a quadrangle about fifty feet square, and this, I think, was the shape of the Manor-house after Bishop Jocelyn had finished his work. And if this was so, then there was considerable likeness between the palace at Wells and the Manor-house at Wookey. Both were built round an inner court, and in both these are traces of the existence of cloisters. Possibly the servants' chambers and the kitchens were to the north of the hall at Wookey, and on the south-east corner of the quadrangle was a gate-house, connected on the east, at any rate, if not on the south, by a cloister or curtain wall. The camera had a large eastern window overlooking the inner court, and probably neither hall or camera had any chambers over them. The hall, I think, had a high pitched roof, and if so, it contrasted strikingly with the flat roofs of the chapel and camera. The whole group of buildings, which I have tried to describe as they probably existed in the 13th century, stood in the north-east

corner of a plot of land, about $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres in extent; and round this on all sides ran a deep moat, the water for which was brought down from the mill-stream by an underground channel at the south-east corner. The moat ran close under the walls of the north side of the house, and about forty feet from the north wall of the hall, and the waters were kept pure and inoffensive by a sluice and underground channel, which led out on the west down to the original bed of the Axe. In the grounds enclosed by the moat, and south-west of the manor house, were one or two fish-ponds, which are mentioned on several occasions, and one of which exists at the present time. We have now described the building as it was in the time of Jocelyn, and as it existed probably for the rest of the time that the Bishops of Bath and Wells possessed it. Bishop Bekyngton, as will be shewn further on, may have inserted several windows, which now exist in the hall; and one of the later bishops, at the end of the fifteenth century or the beginning of the sixteenth century, may have taken off the old roof of the hall and placed chambers over it. But I have found no evidence in any document about this change, and, judging from the style, it may be as late as the middle of the sixteenth century. Everything, then, that happened at the Manor-house, occurred in the building which I have tried to describe. Here, in the hall and in the chapel, happened those scenes in Bishop Ralph's and Bishop Bekynton's times, which are described further on, and in the hall would meet those villeins and tenants of the manor, from the record of which hallmotes I have added a few extracts below. What is, then, the history of the manor, and what were the fortunes of the house? The jurisdiction of the manorial reeve extended over the whole of the manorial lands in the parish, and also over those lands of the bishops which were in the tithing of Burcot, in the out-parish of St. Cuthbert. But in the reeve's accounts, as a rule, four tithings are included, viz., the tithings of Wookey-hole, Wookey, Yarley and Burcot, and these divisions are always observed in the assessments for the purposes of a subsidy. The tithing of Yarley, then as now, included Henton and Bleadney. We must bear in mind also, that the bishop, as lord of the manor,

would have certain rights over all the common fields and waste lands, and therefore could occasionally take cognisance of the acts of other freeholders in the parish, as far as those acts referred to those fields.

Now we must clearly understand what is meant by the manor lands of Wookey ; for within the parish lived several people holding lands belonging to the manor under very different conditions. Domesday tells us that the bishop had twenty villeins, and fourteen cottagers and six slaves. At that time there was no church here, and therefore no parish priest. But gradually the bishop granted portions of the manor to various persons as endowments for particular services. First he provided indirectly for the parish priest, and gave him a certain amount of land as his freehold. Then he leased out the land at Knowle on condition that the tenant should perform military service for him. Then he assigned rent charges on portions of his manor to certain offices in the cathedral, and ultimately we find within the manor freeholders absolutely independent of the bishop ; leaseholders independent, except for the service under which they held their land ; villeins who, while they had farms were obliged to work on the lands of the bishop, and could not leave the manor without permission of the lord ; and cottagers who, living in their own houses, seem to have been mere servile labourers working for their lord. And lastly, during the earlier times, the slaves who held no land, and had no political rights whatever. All these, with the exception of the last two classes, would have certain rights on the common lands of the parish, they would possess claims to certain strips in the common arable fields and meadows, and also enjoy the privilege of turning out on the then waste lands so many head of cattle, sheep, or pigs. The tenants therefore of the rectory glebe lands, or of the vicars choral, holding, as they did from freeholders, other than the bishop, although they enjoyed certain privileges in the manorial common lands, would not appear as the tenants of the manor at the quarterly hallmotes. The evidence, therefore, which we glean from these manorial court rolls, refers simply to those tenants that held directly of the bishop, and chiefly

to the villeins holding farms of half a virgate in extent. But occasionally it will be found that some of these lands have been sold or bequeathed, and are in the possession of freemen. Such, for instance, are the lands in Marley-mede and elsewhere, which belonged to Thomas Tannere, of Wells, and which his executors gave to the Wells almshouses, and such probably were the lands that came into the possession of the prior of the Charter House at Witham, and the prior and convent of St. John the Baptist at Wells. How these lands ceased to be the holdings of villeins I cannot always say, but of course, even after they had been given to other corporations, they had to pay certain chief rents or dues to the bishop as lord of the manor, and ultimately we find that all the lands were in the possession of freemen, who held them on leases of three lives, and were bound to pay certain dues by way of yearly rent, or occasionally, by way of a heriot. As therefore the villeins and the virgate, or half virgate, holders are more intimately connected with the manor than those freemen who enjoyed certain privileges on the common lands, but held land in the parish more or less independently of the bishops, it will be most convenient to give all the information I have been able to gain concerning these latter, distinct from the private accounts of the villeins recorded in the Court Rolls. The earliest record consists of an *inspeximus* of a lease of a farm at Knowl. When Jocelyn became bishop, he naturally asked to see the leases which the tenants held of former bishops, and the Abbey of Bath and Chapter of Wells as guardians of the temporalities of the see during a vacancy, would claim their right of supervision of all leases, lest the bishop should grant any lease to the future damage of the see. The following is an *inspeximus* by Thomas, prior of Bath from 1228-1258, of an *inspeximus* by Jocelyn, bishop from 1205-1242, of a confirmation by Robert, who was bishop from 1136-1165, to Walcher, son of Ralph de la Cnolle, of all the land at Knowle which his father had formerly held. The deed is now in the possession of the trustees of the Wells almshouses, because they possess some of the land which formerly belonged to this estate, and it must have been written between the years 1228 and 1242. It gives us evidence of the existence

of the road from Wookey to Knowle and it mentions Nottlelake, which is now the rhine, called Nottlich; Blakepel, now Blackpool; and Berlegh, now Barley-batch; and Hydeclud, which I have not yet identified.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos præsens scriptum pervenerit Thomas prior Bathoniæ et conventus ejusdem loci salutem, Sciatis venerabilis patris domini Joscelini episcopi nostri inspeximus in his verbis Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos præsens scriptum pervenerit Joscelinus Dei gratia Bathoniæ episcopus salutem cartam felicitis recordationis Roberti quondam Bathoniæ Episcopi predecessoris nostri inspeximus in his verbis Robertus Dei gratia Episcopus Bathoniæ universis sanctæ matris ecclesiæ filiis tam præsentibus quam sera prociatate succedentibus salutem Quia filii Dei vocabuntur pacem volentes et unitati insistentes confirmavimus Wachero filio Radulfi de la Cnoll et heredibus suis totam terram pertinentem a la Cnoll quam pater ipsius tenuit silicet dimidiam hidam terræ cum omnibus pertinenciis libere quiete pacifice et integre in pratis in pascuis in boscis in semitis in pasturis in viis in exitibus et in omnibus aliis consuetudinibus liberis salvo Domini Regis servicio quantum ac tantum terræ pertineat Præterea et firmavimus prædicto Wachero et heredibus suis unam virgatum terræ quæ jacet juxta eandem terram Reddendo inde nobis ipse et heredes sui annuatim tres solidos ad quatuor anni terminos ad Pascham novem denarios ad Nativitatem Sancti Johannis Baptistæ novem denarios ad festum Sancti Michaelis novem denarios et ad Nativitatem Domini novem denarios pro omni servicio Præterea et firmavimus prædicto Wachero et heredibus suis totam moram quæ jacet versus partem australem et partem occidentalem silicet inter fontem de Barleg usque a la Nottelake et usque caput viæ tendentis a la Cnoll perpetuam relaxationem communis pasturæ bosci sub Estun habendam indefensum Hanc quoque nostram donationem et scripto affirmavimus et sigillo nostro coroboravimus cujus rei testes sunt Ivo Decanus Wellensis Robertus Archidiaconus Reginaldus Cantor et totus conventus Wellensis, Goddefridus de Dinre, Thomas de Ebberwurth, Mattheus de Horningdean, Ricardus de Straton, Johannes de Ken, Radulfus filius Senebaldi et multi

alii clerici et laici Nos itaque predictas confirmaciones et donacionem dicti Episcopi sicut prefato Wachero et heredibus suis rationabiliter factæ sunt, ratas habemus et gratas¹ pro nobis et successoribus nostris et eas presenti carta nostra confirmavimus Præterea concessimus Philippo de la Cnoll qui tenet hereditatem quæ fuit dicti Wacheri pro relaxatione communis pasturæ quam vendicavit idem Philippus in mora nostra quæ jacet inter parcum nostrum de Westbury et cursum aquæ tendentis de Woky versus Hydeclud quandam placeam continentem circa unam perticam terræ jacentem inter cursum prædictæ aquæ et fossatum prædictæ moræ juxta viam tendentem versus Cnoll et concessimus quod idem Philippus claudere possit viginti acras de mora sua et pratum humi juxta moram illam quæ continet decem et novem acras et dimidiam quæ mora et pratum jacent ex orientali parte prædictæ moræ nostræ de Westbury quæ debet claudi et per nos et successores nostros sic custodiri quod averia dicti Philippi vel heredum suorum per defectum clausi nostri inde inparcari² Concessimus eciam dicto Philippo duas acras prati nostræ jacentes inter dictum pratum suum cum eodem prato suo per eum claudendas pro quibus dedit nobis et successoribus nostris pro se et heredibus suis mescambium duas acras prati sui apud Blakepel et nos inde seisunt Facient autem predictus Philippus et heredes sui totum predictum clausum suum sic custodiri quod pro defectu clausi sui averia nostra aut hominum nostrum inde non possint inparcari, et de residuo moræ ipsius Philippi quod remanet juxta dictum clausum suum præterea prædictus Philippus pro se et heredibus suis concessit nobis et successoribus nostris viam competentem a ponte de Cnoll juxta cursum aquæ ex australi parte tendentem versus moram nostram tam ad carriagia facienda quam ad averia fuganda in perpetuum et Sciendum quod prædictus Philippus fecit nobis cartam suam de relaxatione et quietum clameum communis pasturæ quam vendicavit in mora de Westbury in hæc verba Omnibus ad quos præsens scriptum indentatum pervenerit Philippus de Cnoll eternam in Domine salutem noverit universitas nostra me concessisse et quiete clamasse pro me et heredibus meis venerabili patri domino Joscelino Bathoniæ

¹ Query "gamcas," but the manuscript is in places difficult to decipher.

² Non possint?

episcopo et successoribus suis totum jus et clameum quod habui vel habere potui in commune pastura morae de Westbury quae jacet ex australi parte parci de Westbury inter domum meam et parcum praenominatum ita quod nihil juris poterimus de cetero ego nec heredes mei aliquo unquam tempore vendicare nobis in eadem. In cujus rei roboratione et testimonio presenti scripto sigillum meum duxi apponendum Hiis testibus Willelmo de Stratton, Waltero Camerario, Philippo de Wik, Gaffredo de Wudeford, Willelmo de Camera, Thomas de Wudeford, Willelmo Bucher, Gaffredo de Brideport, et aliis. Nos itaque praedicti Thomas prior Bathoniae et ejusdem loci conventus praedictis concessionibus et scriptis Joscelini Episcopi nostri nostrum adhibemus assensum et hac praesenti carta nostra protestamur.¹

In the printed epitome of the Close Rolls of Edward III., Edward confirms Bishop Ralph's grant to William de Cammel, canonicus, and Walter de Cammel, servitor, for their lives, and one year more, of all the lands and the tenement in La Worthe, in Woky, which Petronilla de Northom held, paying annually eight marks; also of the tenement which Henry de la Worthe held next to that of Petronilla de Northom; also of fifteen shillings and eightpence of yearly rent accruing from certain fulling mills; also of four acres of land which Margaret, the wife of Peter le Moners holds; also of a close of land from the demesne land called Merlegh, in the manor of Woky, on condition that the said William and Walter do not cut down the oak trees there.²

Again, Edward III. allows Ralph to grant certain lands in Woky by way of an endowment to the brethren of the hospital of S. John the Baptist in Wells; and permission is also given him to assign to the vicars of the cathedral a certain rent charge on lands in Woky and Conoresby.³

In Ralph's register we learn more about this grant to the vicars choral. It was granted at Banwell on October 31st, 1331, and amounted in all to a yearly payment of £10, a

¹ Wells Old Almshouse Papers, No. 1.

² Abb. Rot. Orig. 2, 273.

³ Abb. Rot. Orig. 2, 204.

hundred shillings from rents of lands at La Pulle, in Congresbury manor, and a similar amount from rents of lands at La Worthe, in Wookey manor, to be paid yearly as long as the vicars live together, and eat their meals in the common hall.

On February 4th, 1352, we find the same bishop granting to Else de Corscomb, and Margery his wife, all that mill, with the water-course belonging to it, situated within the manor of Wookey, on a yearly payment of fifteen shillings and eightpence. This must be the corn mill at Bleadney, as it is the only one of such antiquity within the manor, except that at Wookey-hole, which was not within the manor, and had a different history. In 1315 we have a patent roll, granting permission to the bishop to exchange with Walter de Rodney the advowson of the church of West Harptree, for certain lands in Worth, which the latter held in soccage.

Again, in 1402, we find that John Wykyng and Isabella Tanner, of Wells, and others have given to the Prior and Convent of the Charterhouse at Witham certain lands in Woky and Yerdeley, which were held in chief from the Bishop of Bath and Wells as parcel of the manor of Woky.

We come now to those references which refer more especially to the economy of the manor, and the history of the villeins that worked upon it. These references are nearly all derived from bailiffs' accounts and court rolls, either in the Record Office or the Archbishop's library at Lambeth. It will be seen that the bishop derived a money income from many of the tenements, in addition to the labour which the villeins performed on his lands, in return for their houses and half virgates of land; and this proves that as early as the time of Edward III. there was rising up on the manors, side by side with the villeins, and gradually to take their places, that free yeomanry which, in the 17th century, began to play so important a part in the history of the land. The names of these free tenants are seldom recorded, but in order to give examples of these bailiffs' accounts, one is given below in the original, together with a translation, and a translation of a second is printed in full, because of the information it contains concerning the manor house itself.

In the Charter Rolls of Henry III. the bishop is declared in possession of a free warren in Woky.¹

In a Court Roll of 6 Ed. I., 1278, the following names occur in Woky-hole—Walter Castle and John Chamberlyn. In Yardley (Yerdlegh)—Henry Boules, John Srute, Hugh le Deygh, Margeria Bodde, Adam Maynard, John atte Heghelme. In Woky—Henry atte Watere, Gilbert atte Wyk, John le Felaghe, and Adam le Tailler.²

In the Somerset Hundred Rolls of Ed. I., Richard de Woky being one of the jurors, it is declared that the Hundred of Wells Forum is the manor of the bishop, for which he has a royal charter.

On May 9th, 1322, Bishop Drokenesford died, and the temporalities of the see fell into the hands of Edward III., and the bailifs return the following account:—

Redditus. Et iidem reddunt compotum de 50^s 6½^d, de redditibus ad terminum Nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptistæ.

Firmæ molendinorum. Iidem reddunt compotum de lx^s de firmâ molendini de Gledeneye³ aquatici de termino Nat. S. J. B. et xiii^s iv^d de firma molendini aquatici bladi de Lichlegh de termino predicta et de v^s v^d de firma molendini fullonici de Lichlegh.

Nulla est piscatura ibidem.

Exitus manueril. Iidem reddunt compotum de xx^s de Vacris alneti venditi in mora vocata Asshemore et de xviii^d de ciriceto in gardino vendito.

Venditio pasturæ. Iidem reddunt compotum de ii^s de herbagio in gardino et de ii^s de pasturis inter boscas de Merlegh et de v^s de pasturis de Baggerewaye et de ii^s de pasturis de Oxenleaze.

Venditio prati. Et iidem reddunt compotum de xii^s de viii acris prati in Codbugmor pretio acræ xviii^d et de xiii^s de vii acris prati in Martynesheymede pretio acræ ii^s; de xix^s vi^d de vi acris dicti prati in Hornesmede pretio acræ iii^s et

¹ C. Rolls, 5 Hen. III. ² Lambeth MSS., 1098. ³ i.e. Bledeney.

de xii^s de vi acris in Bencroftes et de xxxiii^s de xi acris prati in Silverlakemedede pretio acrae iii^s et de ii^s de 1 acra prati in Merleghmedede et non plus respondent de prato vendito quia non plus falcare potuit ante liberationem temporalitatum electo supra dicto.

Venditio operum.

Iidem reddunt de viii^s iiiii^d de liiii arruris de ix customariorum tenencium dimidii virgatae terrae quorum quilibet arrabit semel qualibus quadrenis a dicto decimo die Maii in festum Nat. S. J. B.

Nihil reddunt de operibus manualibus quia custumarii sunt ad gabulum et tantam habuerunt allocanciam pro operibus suis si fecerint opera quantum haec opera valent in denario de consuetudine.

Recognitiones.

Et iidem reddunt de xl^s de recognitionibus villanorum.

Perquisita et fines.

Iidem reddunt de xiiii^s iv^d de perquisitis legalibus de hallagio termino hokked et xi^s v^d de chevagio garcionum et de vi^s viii^d de fine Philippi atte Bergh et de xxvii^s vi^d de finibus Overland et vi^s iv^d de perquisitis unius curiae habitae die Jovis in festo Corporis Christi et de x^s de uno bove proveniente de heriot Adami atte Watere.

Acquietanciae.

Inde computant in aquietancia unius ipsius¹ vi^d de redditu pro termino Nat. S. J. B.

Empeio bladi

Et in iii bushels 1 peck frumenti emptis in liberationem messori pro liberatione sua per dicta tempora ii^s viii^½^d pretio bushel x^d. In iii bushels 1 peck ordeï emptione in liberatione eadem pro dicta liberatione sua xiiii^d pretio bushel iii^d. In stipendio cujusdam messoris per aestatem xviii^d.

Sarclatio bladi.

In cxxi acris de bladis sarclandis x^s 1½^d silicet pro acra 1^d.

Autumpnue.

In praedictis cxxi acris dicti pro operibus custumariorum Episcopi hujus manerii bladis mercendis ligandis et colligendis de v^s pro acra. In stipendio unius hominis pro blado tassando in campis in Mulloni-

¹ Sic in MSS.

bus iii^s. In dicto blado carriando vii^s vi^d. In dicto blado in grangiam tassando iii^d. In vadiis a stipendio unius ripereni in autumpno vi^s in grangiam per loca vetera discooperta recooperianda cum stramine xiv^d.

Summum £iv et ^s vii.

I venture to add, for the benefit of those who may find the above Latin somewhat difficult, a translation of this interesting account.

Account of John de Clynedon et Gilbert de Borowik, 3 Ed. III., up to the 22nd day of June, before the restoration of the temporalities to Bishop Ralph, of Shrewsbury.

Rents. And the same return an account of £2 10s. 6½d. from rents, up to the time of the festival of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.

Farms of the mills. The same return an account of £3 from the farming of a water mill at Gledeneye (i.e. Bledeneye), from the Nativity of St. John the Baptist; and 13s. 4d. from the farming of a water mill for grain at Lichlegh from the aforesaid date; and of 5s. 5d. from the farming of a fulling mill at Lichlegh. There is no fishery there.

Outgoings of the Manor. The same return an account of 20s. from five acres of willow, sold in a moor called Ashemore; and of 1s. 6d. from herbs, sold from the garden.

Sale of Meadows. The same return an account of 2s. from herbage in the garden, and 2s. for the pasturage between the trees at Marley; and of 5s. from the pasturage of Baggerway; and of 2s. from the pasturage of Oxenleaze.

Sale of meadow grass. And the same return an account of 12s. from eight acres of meadow in Codbugmoor, at 1s. 6d. an acre; and of 14s. for seven acres of meadow in Martins-hay-mead at 2s. an acre; and of 19s. 6d. from six acres of the said meadow in Hornsmead, at 3s. 3d. an acre; and of 12s. from six acres in Bencrofts; and

of 33s. from eleven acres of meadow in Silverlake-mede, at 3s. an acre; and 2s. from one acre of meadow in Marleymede, and they make no further reply concerning the sale of meadow grass, because he¹ was not able to mow any more before the delivery of the temporalities unto the aforementioned elect.

Sale of Works The same make a return of 8s. 4d. from fifty-four "arruræ," from nine customary tenants of half a virgate of land, of whom each will plough once a fortnight, from the said tenth day of May to the festival of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.

They make no return from manual labour, because the customary tenants are at gavel, and they have such allowance for their labours, if they do their works, as much as the works are worth in money, according to custom.

Recognitions. And the same return, 40s., from "recognitions" of villeins.

Perquisites and fines. The same return 14s. 4d. from legal perquisites from Hallage from last Hock-day, and 11s. 5d. from chevage of the men servants; and of 6s. 8d. from the fine of Philip de atte Bergh; and of 27s. 6d. from the Overland fines, and 6s. 4d. from the perquisites of one court, held on Tuesday, being the festival of Corpus Christi; and 10s. from one bull, which came from the heriot of Adam atte Water.

Acquittances. The same reckon in acquittance of one man, 6d. for rent, from the Nativity of St. John the Baptist-day.

Purchase of corn. And in the purchase of three bushels one peck of corn, in payment to a reaper for his wages for the said time 2s 8½d., at 10d. a bushel. In purchase of three bushels and one peck of barley in the same payment, for his own payment 13d., at 3d. a bushel. In wages for a certain reaper through the summer, 1s. 6d.

¹ i.e. the Messor.

Cocking of the corn. In a hundred and twenty-one acres for cocking the wheat, 10s. 1½d., viz., at a penny an acre.

Autumn dues. In the aforesaid hundred and twenty-one acres, for the works of the customary tenants of the said bishop of this manor, for gathering and tying and collecting together the wheat at 5s. an acre. In payment of one man for cocking the wheat in the fields in Mylhams, 3s. For carrying the said grain, 7s. 6d. For heaping together the said grain into the said grange, 3s. In the open fields, by payment of one thatcher in autumn, 6s. For covering with straw certain places in the grange that had been for a long time uncovered, 1s. 2d.

Total, £4 7s. 0d.

The above amount was only for a portion of the year. The customary tenants had to plough once a fortnight all the year round. So during these two months they had only accomplished 36, and redeemed 54, out of the total 234.¹

At the Hallmote at Woky, on S. Michael's Day, 1343, Hugh de Somerton is fined 10s. if he does not repair a path near Knycheswode² before the next court day; and he also makes certain claims against the bishop concerning some land at Merlegh wood. Walter de Middleton comes into full court, and does homage for the lands he holds of the lord at Woky, and Edmundus de Beauchamp does the same for lands at Cnoll. John Frankelyn and Walter Duke are the reeves.³

At a Hallmote, in the next year, Richard atte Naysch is the reeve. Adam Tailler, Thomas White, John Duke, Hugh de Henton, John de Henton, William de Heighelme, and John le

¹ The following notes may be useful :—

Hallage was a certain payment made by the tenants on the goods they sold, or for the right of free sale.

Chevage was a kind of poll-tax paid to the lord of the manor for his protection.

Recognition was generally an arbitrary payment, enforced by the lord on the customary tenants, as acknowledgment of their villenage.

² Knightswood.

³ Lambeth MSS., 1176.

Deighere all appear as plaintiffs, or defendants, in domestic quarrels.

John le Hera and William le Deighere pay 4s. to the lord to be excused the office of bailif of the Bledeneye mill, to which they had been elected by the homage of the manor. The names John de Cadbury, Alanus le Deighere, John Heyne, Henry Drake, and John Strode also occur.¹

In the Summer Hallmote of 1354. Nat. S. John Bapt. 27 Ed. III. 24 Rad. B. & W. Edmundus de bello campo takes a lease of some land at Knolle, lately held by Thomas de Merkesbury, on a lease granted by Robert Burnell, Bishop of Bath and Wells. Henry Botyler is ordered to repair the cottage he holds. John de Westbury is declared a defaulter. Agnes atte Berwe (Barrow), and Richard Basset, holding of the Abbot of Glastonbury, ought to repair the bridge at Bledeneye, which lies too low. John Cosyn and John Duke having been elected, are sworn in to their office as "cadaveratores." Payments are allowed for work in the harvest fields to William atte Harve, a stranger, John le Here, John Stokelyng, William Deyere, Henry Chresshere, Andrew Berde, Ralph Spray, Andrew Cewlie, John Sweet, John Hunte, Richard atte Watere, Walter Dekne, William White, Walter Kymock, William Dekene, Philip Drake, John Brigge, William le Here, Edith Brute, John Rodde, John Vinstrey, Christiana Willames, Juliana Willes, Edith Dekyns, Alice Berwe, Estiva Noggere, and Alice atte Castell.²

Eight years afterwards, at another hallmote at Woky, 35 Ed. III., 32 R. B. & W. Walter Dekene, John Burgge and Robert Rudde are ordered to repair their houses. Det. de Milton is accused of not restraining a certain watercourse between Knolle and Lakennich.³

Twelve years afterwards, in 1374, at the hallmote of St. John the Baptist-day, we find in Burcot Robert Cherbegend's name as a villein. At these hallmotes the information is given generally by the decennarius of the tithing, and the tithing of Burcot,

¹ Lambeth MSS., 1176.

² Ibid., 1177.

³ Ibid., 1178.

though it is in the parish of St. Cuthbert's, Wells, is included in the manor of Wookey, as far as such hallmotes are concerned. Reginald Brid and Walter Dekene are made defaulters; *i.e.* they have not done their work as villeins on the estate, nor have they paid the fines laid on them at previous hallmotes. Robert Lumbard, a villein, is accused of not residing on his tenement, and is ordered to do so under a penalty of 20d. Philip Drake, a villein, is made a defaulter. The "cadaveratores" announce the death of one steer and one sheep on the moors. Philip atte Bergh pays a fine, and enters on two acres in the Overland, formerly of John Bullockhurd. William Bishop returns into hands of the lord one cottage of "ancient auster" of Agnes White, and Agnes White is allowed to enter on payment of two fines in one year, and to hold it in villenage.¹

Nine years afterwards, at the St. Michael's hallmote of 6 Ric. II., Reginald Brydd and William Bishop are made defaulters in rent. William White, Isabel Drake, William Jackes, and Elie Wylcocke are mentioned. Alice Hert returns into the hands of the lord a messuage which John Hert formerly held, "ad opus" W. Dekne, and then W. D. comes and pays 53s. fine, and gets it back; and "unam cameram ex parte orientali de la Weynyate," one acre of land near Waterletewey, half an acre of land above Prestesmore, half an acre at Stokeslynchesham, and three roods of meadow in Merlymede for his life.²

At the next S. Michael's hallmote, in 1384, Cristina Hamme and John Jeol are mentioned. Thomas Clements pays a fine of 53s., and enters upon one messuage and fardell of land, of "ancient auster," which John Herox formerly held—"ita quod ducit in uxorem Alice que fuit uxor dicti Johannis." This is crossed out, and re-entered as being returned by William Dekne, who probably was the decennarius of that year. John Drake holds a messuage and fardell of land, lying near the Overland, with Walter Gentilman.³

At the "Purification" Hallmote of the next spring, 8 Ric. II., Henry Pente, and Andrew, his son, are mentioned in

¹ Lambeth MSS., 1180.

² Ibid., 1181.

³ Ibid., 1182.

reference to a certain watercourse at Silverlakemedede, but the document is much mutilated.¹

In 14 Ric. II., Simon Greve, at Burcot, is made a defaulter. John Willcas is accused of obstructing the watercourse at Marchesymede to the lord's injury. The sale of alders is announced in Ashmore, Rowelmore, and at Bercroftes, near Castleburg. John Bek is admitted into a cottage, and John Smith to one of the church cottages, lately in the occupation of John Compton, of Woky.²

At the "Purification" Hallmote, 18 Ric. II., 1395-6, Morecock, otherwise Carter, is admitted to one messuage, with curtillage. Eighteenpence is obtained from the pasturage of the Westfield, and 1s. from the winter pasturage of Merly. The names of Edward Beauchamp, Richard Potter, and John atte Barwe occur.³

At the Hockday Hallmote, 9 Henry V., 1422-3, John Yeman is at the Burcot mill. The Yerdeley decennarius presents that Henry Webbe is a defaulter, and that John Porter unjustly, and against the peace, has insulted Thomas Counsell, and hit him one blow, and that Thomas Counsell has wrongly taken and enclosed some land belonging to the common road near his house. Henry Mulward, John Edward, junr., John Turnor, Thomas Clerke and Juliana Basset are accused and fined for selling furze to a certain man for cider, and are placed at the lord's mercy; and complaint is made against John Yeman for excessive charges at the mill. The Woky decennarius presents John Porter, William Brugger, John Mody, Adam Hond, William Joel, and John Huchyus, Senr., for selling furze for cider, and they are fined. Eightpence is recorded from winter pasture in Westleyeland. Entrance is granted to Thomas Clerke, and Isabella, his wife, to a messuage, with curtillage and virgate of land, called La Worthe, which Walter Peynte formerly held. Notice is given also to the tenants of the leasehold lands of Sir Thomas Broke, viz., John Tenor, Richard Sprotte, and to the Prior of the Charterhouse at Witham for the lands which formerly belonged to Thomas Tanner, that they

¹ Lambeth MSS., 1183.

² Ibid., 1184.

³ Ibid., 1185.

must come and do homage and fealty to the lord of the manor for their lands. The cadavatores report that one sow was found dead on the moor, but no one was to blame.¹

At the St. John the Baptist Hallmote, 2 Henry VI., seven shillings is accounted for from the sale of plaster of Paris. The bailiff yields up the messuage of the late Nicholas Moure, which his widow, Christina, claims to hold ; and also a certain workshop, called Smythchous, which John Smyth, of Westbury, formerly held. William Hunt is ordered to repair his house.²

At a Hallmote, 10 Henry VI., 1432, William Thomas, of Burcot, is accused of excessive charges at the mill. The Woky decennarius presents Walter Huchynes, of Woky-hole, for penning up the watercourse between Stonmede and Merlegh. The names of John Churchouse, Thomas Barnard, Adam Honde, Thomas Clerke, Richard Smith, John Huchyns and Walter Lovell also occur.³

At the St. John the Baptist Hallmote, 18 Henry VI., 1440, John Bultyngge comes for the homagers, and presents that Juliana Dekyn, who held a messuage and fardell of land, of "ancient auster," is dead, whence there comes to the lord as heriot 6s. 8d., which is paid, and Nicholas Dekyn enters on the tenement. Sales of plaster of Paris, and straw, are mentioned, and of pasture at Hornesmede, and the chase in Knollemore and Asshmore. Isabella Dekyn pays 6s. 8d. to the lord for licence to marry. Philip Dekyn yields a messuage and different virgates of land, of "ancient auster," and John Clerke pays the heriot fine, arising from the death of Nicholas North, who held land ad opus Johannis Clerke. Philip Dekyn is to have two acres of arable land from John Clerke, lying below the close, and in le Garston, and one acre at la Stok, and some lying in Brodemedede. Thomas De la Hay does homage for lands he holds at Knoll from the lord for military service, and which he enters upon in right of his wife Agnes, sister, and heir of John Tonour.

John Rodde, *nativus domini*, aged 13, is placed for the year in the care of William Counsell, the bailif.⁴

¹ Lambeth MSS., 1186. ² *Ibid.*, 1187. ³ *Ibid.*, 1188. ⁴ *Ibid.*, 1189.

In 1461-2 we have the following Reeve's account, and as it is the only complete one that I have found, and contains much that is interesting concerning the customs of the place, I give a translation in full.

Account of the Reeve of Wokey. 1 and 2 Edward IV. The account of John Stott, the bailiff there, from the Festival of S. Michael, in the first year of the reign of King Edward IV., to the same date, then next following in the second year of the said king, and in the 19th year of the consecration of Thomas,¹ Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Assized Rents.—And he returns 28s. 6d. from assized rents of seven free tenants, for each quarter 7s. 1½d., less 15s. from the rent of one messuage, and 107 acres of land and meadow, formerly of William Cammel, which came into the hands of the lord as an escheat, and is placed to the lord's use below² Overland, concerning which he has allowance in further accounts, under the head of loss of rent. And 54s. of assized rents of nine half-virgate holders yearly, viz., for each quarter, 13s. 6d. And 65s. 1½d. for assized rents of twenty-seven fardel holders to the feasts of Christmas, Easter, and S. John Baptist-day, viz., to each date 21s. 8½d., and 56s. 6½d. for assized rents of the said fardells to the feast of S. Michael; and 14s. 4½d. of assized rents of fourteen coterelli, to the feasts of the Nativity of our Lord; Easter, and the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, to each date 4s. 8½d.; and 4s. 8½d. of assized rents of the same tenancies to the feast of S. Michael, and 14s. 9d. for larder duty of the said tenancies to the feast of S. Martin. And 5s. 10½d. of assized rent of various tenancies, called gavelerthe, to the feast of S. Michael, and 4s. 5d. for the tribute penny of Peter to the gule of August. Total, £12 8s. 1½d.³

¹ Bekynton.

² i.e. in the account under heading Overland.

³ A mistake has been made here in reckoning the assized rents of the coterelli; deduct 2d., and the account comes right. The coterelli were the cottagers who had no arrurae to perform, but were obliged to perform manual labour for the lord.

Gula Augusti is the first of that month, *vide* Jacob's Law Dict.

A gavelerthe tenancy is one where a money rent only is made, such as was the case in the fardell holdings.

Rents of the Overland.—And he accounts for 47s. from rent of the lands there of the Overland, as is fully set forth in the account for the twenty-sixth year of the reign of Henry VI.; from 35 acres of land in Waterlete, 8 acres in Buryfurlong, 5 acres in Walfurlong, *alias* Radepole. Seven acres lying fallow produce no rent. Eight acres in Pysfurlong, $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres in Highenbury, 6 acres in Walfurlong, *alias* Radepole; 3 acres in Carpeshyll, one acre in Culverhyll, nothing because they are sown with wheat, oats, and peas. Concerning four acres byforethway, 5 acres at Bencroft, 5 acres at Culverhyll, and 28 acres at Langdowne there is no return, because they lie fallow (*quia jacent friscæ*). Total, *xlviis*.¹

Rents of Pasture.—And he accounts for 1d. for a stych of land at Palmersham, and for 2d. from Thomas Counsell's rent of half an acre in Asshemore, and for 6d. from Peter Gentyllman's rent for three roods of pasture in Allered, and for 66s. 8d. for rent of the pasture called Merley, with eight acres of meadow in Merleymede, and 1s. 4d. from the rent of the pasture called Bremelham no return is made, because it is below the lord's barton, and there is no rent for the pasture of Langstring, because it has been fed down by the lord's oxen. Concerning 13s. 4d. for the pasture called Bagerweylese no return is made in this year, because it is not made in other years. Total, *lxxviii s v d*.²

Rent of Meadows.—From 17 acres of meadow in Hornsmede, 14 acres in Langstring, 5 acres in Worthemede, 5 acres in Laverham, 2 acres in Syndermore, 6 acres in Bencroft, $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres in Merleymede there is no rent, because they have been mown for the lord's use, as is stated below. And he accounts for 6d. from Wm. Counsell's rent for a portion of meadow in Lydeham, the other sixpence having been paid to the Reeve of Westbury. There is no rent from 20 acres of meadow in Oxenleaze, because they were mown for the lord's use, as is stated below. There is 9s. from Walter Stott's rent of three acres in Fermeryham, and 1s. 6d. from half an acre from the same Walter in la Rede, with

¹ This is right.² This is right.

the fishing, and 9s. 6d. from Thomas Combe's rent of three acres of meadow in Pylwaterhouse, and 10s. from Walter Stotte's rent of five acres in Lyttulnye, and 1s. from John Potter for one acre in Syndermore, near Oldclyffe, and 3s. from John Edward for one acre there; and 9d. from William Clerk for one acre there; and 3d. from Thomas Phelps for one parcel of meadow there; and 8s. from William Stotte for 10 acres in Martynesmede, with "le lagge;" and 6s. from William Brownyng for six acres there; and 2s. 4d. from John Tounere for one acre in Worthemede, called Hulk-acre; and 3s. 8d. from Thomas Felpes for two acres in Tyrlakemedede. Total lv^s vi^d.¹

Farming of Land in la Worthe.—And he accounts for 12d. from John Warner's rent for one cottage, with curtillage; and 1s. 6d. from John Edward, Senr's, rent for one cottage and curtillage there; and 2s. from William Stodelman for one parcel of land near Strodehode; and 5s. from John Rumbold's rent for one grange, and one close of pasture of five acres; and 2s. 8d. from John Chywe's rent for one cottage and curtillage, and half an acre of meadow; and 53s. 4d. from Nicholas White for a tenement there, formerly of William Boultynge, with all that belongs to it. Total lxx^s vi^d.²

Farm of Mills.—And he returns 113s. 4d. from John Edward's rent for the corn mill at Bledeney. Concerning 16s. 8d. for one mill called Monerysmille, there is no rent, because it is totally lost; and 1s. from John Smith for one mill stone; and 1s. from John Brownyng's rent for the fishing of Martynesey. Total, cxv^s iv^d.

Revenues of the Manor.—There is no rent this year from the pannage³ of swine. He returns 4s. from a colt, coming as a heriot of John Bernard, at St. Michael's Court; and 13s. 4d. from a bull, as a heriot of R. White, at the Purification Court; and 6s. 8d. from a steer, as a heriot of Richard Smith, at Hockday Court;

¹ This is right. For the position of these meadows c.f. chap. viii.

² This is correct.

³ Pannage is the feed of swine in the woods, such as the mast of beech and acorns.

and 6s. for 24 geese at 3d. each ; and from 300 eggs ; and 2d. from the new rent of Nicholas White for half an acre of reed held of the lord ; and 8s. 4d. from $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of reed, sold at 3s. 4d. an acre ; and 21s. 8d. for 130 cocks and hens, at 2d. each. There is no revenue from six acres at Bencroft, because they have been eaten down by the lord's oxen ; and 2s. "de rewanno" in Oxen-leaze sold this year. There is nothing from the sale of stones, or for firewood this year. Total lxiii^s ii^d.¹

Sale of Corn and Straw.—No wheat was sold this year. There was 26s. from 13 quarters of oats, sold at 2s. a quarter, and £10 for four score loads of hay, at 2s. 6d. a load. Total £xi—vi^s.

Sale of Ploughings (arruræ) and Manual Work.—And he accounts for 25s. 6d. from 136 arruræ, sold at $2\frac{1}{4}$ d. each ; and for 4s. 1d. from 98 manual works at $\frac{1}{4}$ d. each ; and 16d. for 16 works of harrowing, sold at 1d. each ; and £6 13s. 2d. from 34 fardell holders, to relieve them from their manual work, according to the agreement made with the lord, payable at the four quarter days, in addition to their assized larder rent and circset previously accounted for, viz., 3s. 11d. each, with all the works of John Brownyng, mentioned in the previous account at $16\frac{1}{4}$ d. ; and 5s. 1d. from one half-virgate of land, granted to Richard Stotte for his manual work, of which he is yearly relieved, beyond 6s. of assized rent, 6d. from larder rent, and 1d. from the tribute pence of Peter, and 3s. 9d. allowed as not paid under the head of deficiencies of rent. Total £vii xix^s ii^d.²

Perquisites of the Court, with Fines.—He returns 1s. 2d. from the perquisites of St. Michael's Hallmote ; and 40s. from John Bernard's fine at the same Hallmote ; and 20s. from John Turner's fine, and Edith, his wife, at the same Hallmote ; and 1s. 8d. from the perquisites of Hock-day Hallmote ; and 20s. from John Edward, junr.'s, fine at that Hallmote ; and 2s. 6d. from the perquisites of St. John the Baptist's Hallmote ; and 4s. from the

¹ There appears to be an omission of the price of the eggs. If it was 1s. this account is correct.

² These 34 fardel-holders consisted probably of 27 villeins and 7 free-men. There seems to be something wrong in this account ; probably the allowance to R. Stotte should be 2s. 1d.

perquisites of the P.V.B.M. Hallmote; and 3s. 4d. from John Combe's fine; and 20s. from Robert Smith; and 3s. 4d. from Thomas Taylor; and 2s. from John Brownyng; and 13s. 4d. from John Porter, all fined at the same Hallmote. Total, £vi xi^s iv^d.

Capitage.¹—And he accounts for 1s. from the capitage of John Rodde, a native, abiding near Welewe with John Franceys; total, 1^s. Total Receipts, £lviii—xii—ii½.²

Acquittances and Deficiencies of Rent.—And in payment of the bailiff holding one fardell of land in right of his office, with larder and circset, 8s.; and in payment of the messor, in right of his office, 8s.; and in payment of eight half-virgate holders, of whom each will plough, and will work once a fortnight through the year, of whom each will be allowed on his rent at Xmas 9d., Easter 1s., and St. John the Baptist Day, 1s.—22s. And in discharge of the said customary tenants, who will do one manual work each lawful workday, between St. John the Baptist Day and St. Michael's Day, of whom each will be paid for his work 1s.—8s. And there is paid to the Archdeacon of Wells for St. Peter's tribute, due at the gule of August, 2s. And in deficiency of rent of one cottage with pertinence, lately of William Edward, in the hands of the lord, above accounted for at 3s. 4d., and he is not able to levy more than 8d.—2s. 8d. And in deficiency of rent of one acre and a half of land near Overbrokewell, and one acre of land at Stanley, reckoned above in the Overland at 7½d., because they were granted to John White for 2d., in augmentation of his tenancy, this year twelvemonth, at the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 5½d. And in deficiency of rent of one tenement, with pertinence, lately of William Browning, formerly accounted for under the head of rents of lands at 53s. 4d., now granted to Nicholas White for 40s, by Court Roll this year six months, through defect of purchasers, 13s. 4d. Total lxiiiis v½^d.

Autumn Charges.—And for mowing, scattering and carrying

¹ Capitage was the money obtained from the letting of serfs to other employers. Many superfluous serfs were now to be found on every manor.

² This total is probably right, and the total under arruræ wrong.

56 acres, 3 perches, of meadow grass beyond 14 acres done by the customary tenants at 10d. an acre, 47s. 3½d. ; and for reaping six acres of oats, at 6d. an acre, 3s. ; and for cutting 3 acres of reed for the repair of the Manorial houses and Bledeney mill at 1s. 8d. an acre, 5s. ; and for Walter Stotte's wages for two days, for carrying the hay from the lord's meadow, 2s ; and for John Howleg and Edithe Felpus' wages, to each of them for six days for stacking (*pro mullonibus faciendis*), as well in the grange as in the lord's barton, to each of them 4d. a day, 4s. Total, lxi^s iii½^d.

Threshing, Winnowing and Sale of Grain.—And for threshing six quarters of wheat, at 3d. a quarter, 1s. 6d ; and for threshing eighteen quarters, two bushels of oats, at 2d. a quarter, 3s. ; and for winnowing the whole of the said grain of the lord, at 1d. for every three quarters, 8d. ; and for six bushels of peas, at 4d. a bushel, 2s.. Total, vii^s ii^d.

Scouring and Embanking. (*Clausura.*) And for twenty ropes of rhine at Bencroft, for digging and scouring at 2d. a rope, 5s. 10d. ; and for scouring 35 ropes at Hornsmede, and 40 ropes at Oxenlease, there is no charge, because they were cleansed by the servants of the lord. Total, v^s x^d.¹

Cost of Management.—And for mending ploughshares, coulter, iron chains and other unavoidable breakages during the year, 2s. ; and for the purchase of eight tacks, 1s. 4d. ; and for making one new harrow, with the iron of one old harrow from the store, 23½d. ; and for two new carts, 12d. : and for two new hinges, 8d. ; and for one new iron chain, 1s. 2d. ; and for the purchase of grease for the use of the waggon yearly, 8d. ; and for one pair of wheels, 8s., and in tying of the same by weight, 272 lbs., at 1d. a pound, 22s. 8d. ; and for the pasture of eight of the lord's oxen in Merleymede, at 20d. for each oxen, 13s. 4d. ; and for the pasture of one bull and eight oxen of the rector, according to custom, 13s. 4d. ; and for the pasture of six oxen of the Reeve,

¹ A rope, I believe, to be 21 feet. *Clausura* may mean keeping the rhines clean and deep, and so keeping the cattle on the moor ; or else the enclosure of fresh portions of the moor by means of rhines.

according to custom, 10s. ; and for pipyng of one wheel, 8d. ; and for one axle for the waggon, 4d. ; and the shruddings of one waggon, 6d. Total, £iii xvii^s xi^d $\frac{1}{2}$.¹

Expenses of the Gardens.—Boultyng's wages for 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ days, John Leke's for 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ days, Nicholas White for 4 days, at the lord's table, for digging and cleaning the chapel garden there, to each of them 2d. a day, 2s. 2d. The wages of Robert Howleg, Thomas Taylor, William Clerk, John Boultyng, John Lock, William Hicks, Richard Bryce, Edward Went, John Wylcocks, John Edward and John Grove, to each of them for three days for digging and thinning of "crocus" for the table of the lord, to each of them 2d. a day, 5s. 6d. And in payment of John Grove, Richard Bryce, Robert Howleg, John Boulting, Roger Gyes, Thomas Taillor, and William Hicks, to each of them for six days and a half, for digging and setting of "crocus ;" of Edward Went, John Lone, William Wylcocks, John Galwey, to each of them for five days and a half ; of William Courte for four days, and John Edward for two days, to each of them 4d. a day, 22s. 4d. And in paryng fourteen pannæ of garden "crocus," at 20d. a panna, 23s. 4d. And for cutting the said garden, 1s. 4d., and to William Hicks for levelling the said crocus-bed, 1s. 2d. ; total, lv^s x^d.²

Repairs.—John Burgh's wages for eleven days, 3s. 8d. ; John Chapell for a week, 1s. 6d. ; Walter Bale for one week, 1s. 6d. ; Robert Bernard for two weeks and two days, 3s. 6d. ; Walter Balstaff, for two weeks and two days, 3s. 6d. ; Thomas Hylle, for one week, 1s. 6d. ; and Walter Burgh for four days, 1s. ; doing carpenter's work and making le sperys in the hall for the lord's table, with 9d. for their lodgings, 16s. 11d. ; and for seven oak boards, bought for the same, 3s. 6d. ; and for seven walshbords for the same, 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. ; and for the purchase of spiks for the same, 1d. ; total, 21s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. ; and for making the gate of the crocus garden, 4d. ; and for two hinges for the same, with fastener, 8d. ; and for

¹ This amount does not seem right. Concerning the rector's oxen, c.f. Sale of manor, 1553. I do not understand the clause in "shrudacione unius plaustri vid."

² This seems to be wrong by one man's wages for six and a half days.

150 laths, 10d. ; and for 1,500 tiles, 5s. ; and for 500 lath nails, 7d. ; and the wages of John Tyler, senr., and John Tyler, junr., covering the roof of the camera and bakehouse, for two days, to each of them 5d. a day, 1s. 8d. ; and to a servant for them for the aforesaid time, 8d. ; and to John Hicks, the carpenter, for two days, for mending the door of the grange and the dovecot, at 4d. a day, 8d. ; and to the same John Hicks for making the racks in the kitchen, 2d ; and to Walter Stott for the carriage of four loads of stone from Cheddar to Bledeney mill, in addition to six cart carryings of the Reeve, and servants of the lord to the said mill, at 1s. 4d. a load, 5s. 4d. ; and to making¹ of the said mill, 26s. 8d.

Expenses of the Hall² there.—And for 9,250 lbs. of lead bought for it ; 4,950 lbs. of Poklode at 3s. 2d. a hundred, more in all, 3s. 4d. ; 4,300 lbs of lead of Myndsplede, at 4s. 6d. a hundred, less in all, 2s.—£17 15s. 11d. And of John Heyman, of Stoke, for the carriage of 4,950 lbs. of lead from Bristol to Woky, with 1s. 6d. for delivery at Bristol, 11s. And to Richard Wele, for four weeks and three days, and to Walter Bale, for two days and a half, carpenters, for scraping the lead-lath, and buying stone for the hall, of whom each took 5d. a day, 12s. 3½d. ; and to John Baker and Thomas Pegyn, for sawing 875 led-laths and Onysbord, at 1s. a hundred, 8s. 9d. ; and for 21 boards of walnut, for “les Fimbrells,” 3s. 10d. ; and for 4,600 led-nails and hacche-nails, bought at the same, at 2s. 6d. a thousand, less in all, 5d.—11. 1d. ; and Thomas Pyerson, for 1,000 bordnails, 4s. ; and to John Smith, of Woky, for seven pounds of iron made into crampons, for binding of the stonework of the hall, 7d. ; and to John Plummer, senr., for 5 weeks and 1 day, and to Richard Plummer for 5 weeks and 2½ days, and to John Plummer, of Bristol, for 1 week and 5½ days, to each of them 3s. a week ; and to John, the son of John Plummer, for 1 week and 5 days, at 2s. a week ; for melting the lead for roofing of the hall there, 41s. 2d. ; and to John Horts for 7 weeks and 1½ days, and to William

¹ “Making” must mean repairing.

² i.e. at Wookey Manor House.

Lang for 4 weeks and 2 days, for laying the lead of the hall, and for serving on the said plumbers, to each of them at 2s. a week, 23s. 2d. ; and for 550 lath-nails, bought at 2d. a hundred, 11d. ; and for one hundredweight of wedges, 8d. ; and to William Hyne, for making le lateys for le fimbrells of the hall, for 5½ days, at 4d. a day, 1s. 10d. ; and to John Stowell, the stone-cutter, for making the lavatory under the cupboard, and to William Waron, plasterer, for 5 days for fixing the said lavatory, and for bemefillyng and parjecting¹ of the said hall, who receives daily 5d.—2s. ; and for twelve bushels of lime, with one bushel of limestone, for the said hall, 6d. ; and to John Tyler, for one day laying on tiles over the cloister there, 5d. ; and to John Synyer, of Congresbury, for collecting and sifting the said lead scrapings, 27 cwt., at 6d. a cwt., 13s. 6d. ; and for six quarters of coals, bought for the same, at 6d. a quarter, 3s. Total expenses of the hall, £24 15s. 8½d.

Total, £xxiv ii^s ix^d.²

Wages of the Servants.—In payment of two domestic servants, to each yearly 10s., 20s., and for their sustenance, at 4 qrs. 2 bus. of barley, to each of them 2 qrs 1 bus. yearly, at 4d. a bushel, 11s. 4d. Total, £i. xi^s iv^d.

³ *Customs of the Villeins.*—And for the custom called the “gust” of the villeins at the feast of St. Martin, 1s. 2d. ; total, i^s ii^d.

Payment of Moneys.—And paid to Master Richard Swan, into his hands, for the stables of the lord’s hostel as for money thirteen quarters of oats and 3d. a bushel, and four score loads of hay, at 2s. 6d. a load ; £11 6s. 0d. Total, £xi vi^s.

Sum of the total expenses and charges, £54 13s. 9½d., and so there is due to the lord 78s. 5d., which the receiver paid on the account, and so it is settled.

¹ *Bemefillyng* was the filling up between the ends of the roof timbers, after they have been placed on the top of the wall.

Parjecting—Rough-casting.

² These totals do not seem to tally.

³ The *gustus villanorum* was probably a money payment, made in lieu of the entertainment on St. Martin’s Day, which the lord was accustomed to make to his customary tenants.

*Wheat.*¹—And about 6 qrs. of wheat, received from the total outgoing of the grange, and 9 bushels of wheat received from circset, to the Feast of S. Martin ; total, 7 qrs. 1 bus.

From which in payment of a half-virgate, granted to Richard Stotte at a fixed rent, 1 bushel, and for seed over six acres of land, in Walfurlong, *alias* Radepole, three acres of land at Combedyche, three acres at Carpeshylle, four acres at High Henbury, one acre at Culverhylle, 2 qrs. 6 bus. of wheat, so that it took one bushel one peck of wheat an acre, and on the whole three pecks more. And in the keep of two servants there yearly, to each of them 2 qrs. 1 bushel ; 4 qrs. 2 bushels. Total amounting to above.

Oats.—And about 18 qrs. 2 bushels of oats received from the total outgoing of the grange ; total, 18 qrs. 2 bushels.

Of which in seed over seven acres of land in Pisfurlong, seven acres in Buryfurlong, three acres in Walfurlong, *alias* Radepole, 4 qrs. 6 bushels, taking two bushels an acre, and four bushels more on the whole ; and for the keep of two servants yearly, four bushels, and sold to the stables of the hostelry for one tallage 13 qrs ; total amounting to above.

Peas.—And 6 bushels of peas received for sale ; total 6 bushels.

For seed for one acre of land in Walfurlong, *alias* Radepole, two bushels, and for the sustenance of the lord's dovecote in winter, four bushels ; total, 6 bushels.

Geese.—And from 24 geese, coming from customary tenants rearing geese this year ; total, 24 geese, and sold below, and so accounted for.

Cocks and Hens.—And from 130 cocks and hens coming from circset to the feast of St. Martin, from 26 customary fardells of land, the tenants of which each pay one cock and four hens ; total, 130, and sold below, and so accounted for.

Eggs.—And from 300 eggs, coming from the collection of the Messor at Easter ; total, 300 eggs, and sold below, and so accounted for.

¹ What follows is on the back of the preceding account, and is probably the account of the Messor. The word "infra" is used generally for any other place in the account.

Hay.—And 110 loads of hay from last year, and 16 loads from 14 acres of meadow at Langstring ; and 6 loads from 5 acres in Laverham ; and 23 loads from 17 acres in Hornesmede ; and 10 loads from 5 acres in Worthemede ; and 12 loads from 6 acres in Bencroft ; and 2 loads from 2 acres in Syndermore ; and 2 loads from 1 acre 3 perches in Merleymede ; and 30 loads from 30 acres in Oxenlese ; total, 211 loads of hay.

Of which 30 loads were used for the keep of 8 oxen and 1 cow during the winter, and 80 loads were sold for the tables of the hostelry ; total, 110 loads, and there remains 101 loads.

Reed.—And 6 acres of reed this year ; total, 6 acres.

Of this half an acre was sold to Nicholas White as appears above, and in repairing the manorial houses and the mill at Bledeney, 3 acres, and for sale below $2\frac{1}{4}$ acres ; total equal to above, and so it is settled.

Graserthe and Gutferme.—And from 18 arruræ, coming from nine half-virgate holders, of whom each will plough once with the lord for two days at the sowing time of wheat. From the fardell holders there is nothing, because it comes below in the rent ; total, 18 arruræ.

From which in allowance of one half-virgate, as above, two arruræ, and in ploughing the lord's land at wheat sowing time, 16 ; total as above.

Arruræ.—And from 225 arruræ, coming from nine half-virgate holders, of whom each will plough with the lord once a fortnight through the year, one plough more being deducted on account of three weeks' festival, so from each of them twenty-five arruræ, at the price of $2\frac{1}{4}d.$ an arrura ; total, 225.

From which, in allowance of one half-virgate as above, 25 arruræ ; and for wheat sowing on the lord's land, 16 arruræ ; and for oat sowing, 16 arruræ ; and in turning up the fallow ground of the lord, and ploughing it the second time, 16 arruræ ; and in carrying the lord's hay from the meadow, 16 arruræ ; and for sale below, 136 ; total as above.

Manual Works.—And from 252 manual works coming from nine half-virgate holders, of whom each will work once a week

one work, and for the second week three works between the feasts of St. John the Baptist and St. Michael, so from each there will be 28 works ; and from 24 manual works arising from 12 cottage holdings, of whom each will sow grass seed in the lord's meadow for two days ; and from 4 works coming from one cottage holding, now in possession of John Gentyman ; from 24 fardell holdings there is nothing, as it is below in the cash account ; total, 280 works.

From which, in allowance of one half-virgate holding, as above, 28 works ; and in mowing, scattering and carrying 14 acres of meadow, over and above six acres three perches in cash account, four score works ; and in reaping, tying and collecting 29 acres of wheat, at two works an acre, 58 works, over and above six acres below in cash account ; and for reaping the lord's wheat, 16 works ; and for sale below, 96 works ; total as above.¹

Harrowing.—And from 18 works of harrowing, coming from nine half virgate holders, of whom each will harrow for two days for seed of wheat. From the fardell holders nothing, because it is below in the cash account ; total, 18 works.

Of which, in allowance of one half-virgate as above, two works ; and for sale below, 16 works ; total as above.

Woky.—The account of the reeve there, ending on the morrow of St. Michael, the second year of Edward IV.

The above account gives us some information concerning the customs of Woockey. When we compare the portion of the account for the year 1329 with this of 1462, it appears that the free tenants remain the same in number—*i.e.* seven. The half-virgate holders seems to have been in a lower state of villenage than the fardell holders, for while the former have to perform their fixed number of arruræ and manual works, the latter always compound for them by a fixed payment in money. During the above period a change seems to have taken place, for in the former account the customary tenants only perform their ploughings, and pay a fixed sum in lieu of their manual

¹ This is probably correct, and previous account wrong by two works overcharged on John Gentyman.

works ; while in the latter the fardell holders are all at gavel, and the half-virgate holders are no better than the coterelli ; being bound to perform both manual work and ploughing. The nine half-virgate holders pay six shillings a year for their tenements, and holding under grasererthe and gutferme tenure, they have to plough for two days at wheat sowing. Also they have to plough or do an equivalent in carting once a fortnight during the year, one fortnight only being allowed for holiday time. Also for the seven fortnights between June 24th and Sept. 29th, they have to perform twenty-eight manual works, viz., one the first week, and three the next. Finally they have to perform two manual works each, of harrowing at seed time. The uncertainty whether a villein would be called upon to perform his allotted amount of ploughing or manual work, or would be allowed to compound, would be a continual source of annoyance and a constant reminder to them that they were villeins and not free men. As the total number of arruræ and opera manualia of the nine half-virgate holders is accurately reckoned up, it is probable that they were all villeins, while those tenements that were not all held by villeins would be probably among the fardell holdings. The fardell holders pay a fixed sum as rent, and also fixed money charges in lieu of ploughing, or any other service.

The coterelli, or cottagers, pay a fixed sum for rent, and do two manual works each at grass sowing time.

The Wookey Virgate contained 60 acres, and the fardell 15 acres.

Graserthe and Gutferme Tenure was that which imposed upon the holder certain ploughings on the lord's lands, as well as a certain amount of ditching. The Wookey Overland seems to have extended from Wester's Gate to Castle, then to Langstring, and so back again by way of the top of Yarley. At any rate, if the Overland was a definite portion of land. But I rather think that under that head was included such villein holdings as fell into the hands of the lord by way of escheat from time to time. These might be anywhere in the parish, and would after a time be regranted to other villeins. Part of the Overland

seems once to have been at Knowle ; and this is probable, if the Knowle estate fell into the hands of the bishop.

The demesne land, or home farm, as we would now call it, seems to have been about 115 acres, *i.e.* much about its present size.

There were three officers of importance in the manor. The Decennarius, or tithing man, who appeared at the hallmotes at the head of the homagers. The Præpositus, or bailiff, who took the place of the bishop in his absence, and the Messor who was the harvestman who looked after the lord's harvest. There was also a mill bailiff, or elected overseer, whose duty it was to watch the mill both for the lord and his tenants, lest there should be any cheating or carting of grain to other mills.

At the St. John the Baptist hallmote, held on June 25th, 4 Ed. IV., 1461, William Clerke, in the name of all the homage, presents that John Barnard, junr., son of . . . Barnard, a nativus of the lord by descent, is staying at Shyre, in the county of Surrey, without permission, and his nearest of kin, promises that he shall be present himself at the next hallmote. Also that William, the son of John Hycks, a nativus of the lord by descent, is staying at Mere with his mother without permission. A steer and two colts are reported by John Moleyns as having been impounded for straying, and are now in the custody of the bailiff. The Messor comes and presents 7d., coming to his office from small attachments, as appears from his accounts.¹

Walter Pyers has, to the Feast of St. John the Baptist, to repair his house well and sufficiently, under a penalty of 20s. He is given another day, at the request of John Lyde, William Clerke and Walter Stotte.

John Turner is placed "in misericordia" because he has not repaired his ruinous tenement, and in the name of the homage he is bidden to do so by next moot day, under a penalty of 40d.

A certain ditch is to be viewed at Bledeney, between the tenements of Walter Pyers and Peter Browning. Also at the suggestion of the lord a view is taken of a certain ditch on the

¹ Lambeth MSS., 1098, A.

south side of Fermeryham, which now lies suffocated, to peoples' injury, because John Sawyer, junr., John Chapell, John Chuwe and Robert Howlegge hold the scouring, as it is said, and enquiry is to be made by the next hallmote whether the scouring of the said ditch is for the advantage of the lord and his tenants or not.

The presenters of the homage and the nearest relations are ordered to produce, by the next hallmote, Thomas, the son of Nicholas Dekyn, a *nativus domini*, attached to his manor of Woky, now staying at Hyghworth, near Faryngdon.

To this hallmote William Clerk, and Alice, his wife, comes and returns into the hands of the lord one messuage and one fardell of land of ancient auster, at Bledeney, for the use of John Clerk, their son, and Edith, his wife; and there is a heriot fine, according to custom (13s. 4d). And on this come the same John and Edith, and give to the lord for fine 13s. 4d., for the position of holding the said messuage and fardell of land, to be held and had by them as ancient auster in villenage, according to the customs of the manor, for the customary rent and service thence first due. And so, then, they have seisin, and do fealty to the lord.

In 1514 John Tupper is accused of excessive charges at the Burcot mill. John Taylor is appointed decennarius of the Burcot tithing, and admitted by William Taylor. At Yerdlegh, Nicholas Browne, carpenter, and Richard Churchouse are mentioned, and at Woky Peter Nywman, carpenter; and John Tupper is admitted decennarius by Nicholas Boultynge. This reeve's account is much faded, and hardly legible.¹

At the St. John the Baptist hallmote, 31 Henry VIII., Richard Wylcock, John Atwyll, William Burg and John Chyme are mentioned, as also Knoll Bridge and Lake Mewth.²

John Tailler, als Buxton, William Trym, Thomas Milward are presented for the office of reeve, and John Tailler is admitted to it; also John Somerton, William Trym and John Wylcock for the office of harvest overseer, or Messor, and William Trym is admitted.

¹ Lambeth MSS., 1190.

² Ibid., 1191.

Edward Hyppisley and John Hort, in the name of the whole homage of Burcot, come and declare that all is well there up to that day.

This is the last hallmote account at Lambeth. The other bundles of manuscripts contain hallmote accounts of bishops' manors; but Woky is no longer among them, as it has passed into the hands of the Dunche family.

We must distinguish between these minutes of hallmotes and the reeve's accounts. The former would contain the notices of the fines, and the authority for certain acts; and the latter would give us the total receipts from the fines, and the expenses incurred in carrying out the repairs or improvements ordered, and also the details of the revenues of the lord.

There are five valuations of the manor of Wookey previous to the death of Henry VIII. On the first occasion it is reckoned with Wells in Domesday, 1086, as worth £30 a year. Two hundred years after, in 1291, we find, for the purposes of the *taxatio* of Nicholas IV., the manor of Wookey alone assessed at £25 1s. 3d. a year. Again, in 1426, during the reign of Henry VI., when John Stafford was bishop, Wookey manor is reckoned as worth £39 11s. 4d. a year. In Henry the Eighth's time Wookey was twice appraised; once when Hadrian de Castello was bishop, *i.e.* 1504-1518, on which occasion it was reckoned as worth £50 5s. 4d. yearly; and on the second occasion during the episcopacy of William Knight, when it was surveyed for the purposes of the general spoliation of the Church, and the account of which is preserved in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, 1541. This last I give briefly in English.

In assised rents, as well of free tenants, as of customary dues yearly, in addition to the fee of 18s. 1½d., due to W. Churchouse, the bailiff, there is a clear rent of £46 16s. 6d.

The perquisites of the Manor Court, and other casual payments, average about £1 3s. 4d.

And the average of fines on the leases of land, £1.

So that there is a clear income of £48 19s. 10d.

At the time of the Valor Ecclesiasticus the manor was leased out to Thomas Clerk, and the terms and cause of the lease I have found recorded in the Chapter Records at Wells. The deed is dated April 6th, 1544.¹ Thomas Clerke, of Wookey, armiger, had been granted by his brother, bishop John Clerke, 1523-1541, a lease for sixty-three years of three closes of land under Wells Tor, and within the bishop's park, and on condition that he gives up this lease, bishop Knight grants him a lease of the manor of Wookey. The indenture is made out in the names of Thomas Clerk, and Anthonia, his wife, and the property is leased to them for their lives, and one year afterwards, at a yearly rental of three shillings and fourpence. The amount of the fine is not stated. The place is described as consisting of the house, or mansion, with all the houses, buildings, barns, stables, dovecots, sheds, gardens, orchards, waters, pools, fish-ponds and pastures. The property was bounded on the north side by the running water, *i.e.* the Axe, that flows between the parish church of Wookey and the house, or mansion, as far as Boltyng Bridge, and from there to the road that joins the high road from Wedmore to Wells on the west, and then on the south by the high road to Wells as far as the great entrance gate, and so back to the river Axe. Thomas Clerke is forbidden to take away lead from the roof of the hall, the chapel, the large camera, and the other buildings, and he is not allowed to cut down any of the large trees. In addition to this he receives the lease of twelve acres of land on the meadow called le Maris, below the said manor, which was lately in the tenure of Walter Serger and William Chappell is the bishop's attorney to give seisin. Should Thomas Clerke require any stones for the necessary repair of the buildings, they will be provided from the bishop's quarry, in the park at Westbury.

This brings us down to the time when Wookey ceased to belong to the bishops of Bath and Wells; but to make the account more perfect, there yet remains the few references I have been able to find concerning the mills within the parish, and the occasional notices in the bishop's registers of events that occurred

¹ Ledger D.

in the Manor-house itself. The one mill that, without any doubt belonged to the manor, was that at Bleadney. At the time of the Domesday Survey, four mills are recorded as in the possession of the bishop, within the territory of Wells. Of these, two certainly were in the parish of Wells, the Outmills and the In-mills; probably one was at Wookey-hole. But it is impossible to say whether the mill at Burcot,¹ or the mill at Bleadney, was included, because we have no evidence as to the time when the mill stream from Henley to Bleadney was made. The mills, however, are divided into corn mills and cloth mills. It will have been noticed above, that during the vacancy after the death of Drokensford, 1329, the bailif returns rents from the water-mill at Bledeneye, and a corn mill and a fulling mill, both at Lichlegh.

On February 4th, 1352, as has been mentioned before, bishop Ralph grants to Else de Corscomb, and Margera, his wife, and their lawful heirs, all the mill, with its water-course in the manor of Wookey, at a yearly payment of fifteen shillings. This is probably the mill at Bleadney or Lichlegh. After this comes two references to mills at Wookey-hole, which were within the parish, but not exactly parcel of the manor. In 1425, Thomas and Anderna Wayfere lease to Roger and Joanna Wye a fulling mill at Wookey-hole for forty-seven years, and five years afterwards Thomas Wayfere leases to Walter Dylverton a fulling mill at Wookey-hole, which capit a ponte ex opposito cotagii Roberti Delymakere usque ad Woky-hole.

On August 24th, 1536,² bishop Clerke leases to William Bell, and Anna, his wife, and James, their son, all the water-mill at Bleadney, and one close of meadow in Goscland, in the pool below the manor of Westbury from the Overland,³ paying yearly to the bishop and his successors thirteen shillings and fourpence, and when any stones for repairs, or fresh mill-stones were required, the bishop would find them.

¹ We must bear in mind that the tithing of Burcot was included in the manor of Wookey, though it is not in the parish of Wookey.

² Probably the Overland of the manor of Westbury.

³ Chap. Doc., Ledger D,

There is one more reference to the mills during the lifetime of Thomas Clerke. It is not quite intelligible, because it was at a time when the manor had ceased to belong to the bishops ; but as it occurs in the bailif's account of the bishop's temporalities at the time of bishop Barlow's flight, and before bishop Bourne's arrival, and during the reign of Philip and Mary, it may point to an intended restoration, which the brevity of Queen Mary's reign frustrated. Walter Paynter,¹ of Burcot, pays seven shillings rent for a water-mill and a cloth-mill, and Thomas Clerke pays forty shillings for one water-mill in Burcot, and forty shillings for another water-mill in Wyke, *i.e.* Wookey-hole, and twenty-four pounds for the farming of the four mills, called the Out-mills and the In-mills.

Now as places are interesting by reason of the events that took place within them, the history of the Manor-house would not be complete without a reference to some of those events which are recorded as having occurred there. Of course whatever happened there had reference to the bishop and the diocese. The Manor-houses in Somerset were distinctly private residences of the bishops up to the time of bishop Bekynton. They were houses where the bishops retired for rest and quietness, and they continued as such until the latter half of the fifteenth century. And as long as we find the bishops acting as bishops within the diocese, so long do we find them in personal occupation of their Manor-houses. But when they began to make use of Commissary Generals and Bishops in partibus for the performance of the necessary episcopal duties in the diocese, then they began to lease out their Manor-houses, and confine their residence to Wells, or Bath, or London. When the Manor-house at Wookey was last inhabited by a bishop, I cannot say, but I do not think that it was often visited by its owners after the death of Bekynton.

In the fourteenth century it was often visited by bishop Drokensford and bishop Ralph. Here, on June 6th, 1324, Drokensford issues his commission to the vicars of Doultling and Pilton to proceed against the "sons of iniquity," who had pulled down the embankments at Castle. Out to the Manor-house at

¹ Bishops' Temp. 2 P.M. 47a. Record Office.

Wookey, the dean of Wells¹ (Walter de London) has to come in 1339, to present to bishop Ralph as he sits in his camera, the new statutes of the cathedral, that they may be confirmed; and again on May 31st, of this same year, about vesper time, come Richard de Tychemersh and Philip de Bristol, vicars in the Cathedral of Wells, and acting as Commissaries of the Dean and Chapter, and present to the bishop a loaf of bread, a pig, and one skin full of wine, being half of the annual rent due from the Abbot and monastery of Glastonbury to the bishop, and the bishop at once orders them to be distributed to the poor.

Bishop Bubwith, 1407-1424, seems to have been especially fond of Wookey, and when in the neighbourhood appears to have spent more time here than at the palace at Wells. Here, on September 6th, 1412, he ordains Hugo Ford and John Croft, and on September 9th of the same year he grants an indulgence of forty days to all the parishioners and others who, having confessed and received absolution, shall also contribute to the repair of the causeway from Bleadeney to Parnborough. One would judge that Bubwith had taken to heart the bad roads of Somerset in his time, for by his will he left a thousand marks for the "reparacion and amendment of unsafe and miry ways within the "County of Somerset." Living much at Wookey, he would naturally know the state of the parish church, and to him I think we may fairly ascribe the building of the aisles and tower. Certainly the ruinous state of the chancel attracted his notice, for on July 5th, 1423, he issued his commission for the repair of the chancel, and sequestrates Mr. Sub-dean Mockyng's revenues to pay for the restoration of that which he had allowed to get into such a dilapidated state. And here, on October 27th, 1424, the good old bishop died.

In the published correspondence of bishop Bekynton, three of his letters are dated from Wookey, on August 30th, 1445, September 21st, 1452, and April 18th, 1447. On August 23rd, 1446, a remarkable scene took place in the chapel of the Manor-house. John Forest, dean of Wells, was just dead, and there had been some attempt to foist upon the chapter a stranger.

¹ c.f. Reynold's History of Wells Cathedral.

John de la Bere had bribed pope Eugenius IV., and had come down with the pope's nomination in his pocket, and probably with a letter of recommendation from the king. But the clergy of the cathedral hold out for their rights, and appear at Wookey before bishop Bekynton, as he sits on his tribunal seat in the chapel, for the purpose of proving to him that a valid election had taken place. The circumstance is of sufficient interest to be recorded at greater length, and it becomes specially noteworthy when we remember that the chapter were working in the teeth of a papal recommendation. Dean Forest died on March 25th, 1446,¹ and on Sunday, April 8th, John Raynold, the sub-dean, and John Bernard, the succentor, call a meeting of the resident prebendaries in the Chapter-house, and declare that on the Sunday after the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a chapter will be held for the election of a dean, and that all prebendaries and persons interested are to appear and take part in the election, or to abide by the decision of those present. On August 22nd, being the day mentioned, the mass of the Holy Ghost is sung in the Chapel of the Virgin Mary in the cloister of the cathedral, and the *Veni Creator* is repeated, and then a procession is made to the Chapter-house, the bells being rung in honour of the event. There are John Raynold, the sub-dean, William Stevens, the precentor, Thomas Bubbwith, the archdeacon of Wells, J. Storthwart, the chancellor, John Bernard, the succentor, Richard Hoore, the provost, and many of the prebendaries. Those who cannot come take care to send their proxies. William Langton, Thomas Been, John Tregodek and Benedict ap Howell, notaries public are present to ensure the performance of all formalities, and to describe the proceedings accurately. John Pedewell, John Bekynton, Robert Caton and Thomas Chrewe, perpetual vicars, are present as witnesses. At the north and south doors of the cathedral, and at the entrance of the Chapter-house the names of the absentees are read over, and they are summoned to appear. Then they proceed, and elect as dean Nicholas Carent, a licentiate in laws, being a prebendary and canon of the cathedral.

¹ Bekynton's Register, f. 208.

On the next day, *i.e.* August 23rd, the events of the previous day are recorded to bishop Bekyngton by Richard Cordon, doctor of laws, and with him apparently are the sub-dean and the succentor. Bekyngton is in his chapel at Wookey, and together with the three ambassadors of the chapter come seven witnesses as to the fitness and the good life of the dean elect, Nicholas Carent. They prove to the bishop's satisfaction that he is of an honest life, and in priest's orders. The witnesses are Alexander Hody, armiger, John Godewyn, gentleman, and Thomas Lyte, gentleman, of Lytescary, John Pedewell and John Bekyngton, priest vicars, and Thomas Chrewe and John Haydon. Soon afterwards Nicholas Carent comes and makes his profession of obedience, and on the 27th Bekyngton issues from Wookey letters to the sub-dean and the precentor to install the new dean.

Now this election would be a very ordinary affair but for the notes of Gascoigne¹ on the action of John de la Bere. De la Bere was Lord High Almoner to Henry VI., and had given fourteen hundred marks as a bribe to pope Eugenius IV., that he might be made dean of an English cathedral without consulting the wishes of the chapter. On the death of Dean Forest he had obtained letters from Henry VI. to the chapter of Wells to instal him as dean by virtue of his papal provision. The chapter manfully resisted him, and refused him admission into the cathedral, and brought down excommunication upon them. This, however, was soon taken away, when Henry gave de la Bere the vacant see of St. David's. He was clearly unfit for the post, both on account of his age and his attainments, for on this account, after he had been made a bishop, he is excused from attending parliament.

We must now return to the history of the manor, and we arrive at a difficult time, between the time when the bishops were undoubtedly in possession of the manor, and those days when the family of the Dunches possessed it. On October 10th, 1548,² bishop Barlow receives from the Crown, probably on account of a previous cession of the episcopal manor of Chard, the manor of

¹ Loci e L.V. p. 25.

² Pat. Roll. 2 Ed. VI., pt. 7.

Wookey for himself and his heirs, and with a license to sell. On February 4th, 1549, Barlow makes Edward, Duke of Somerset, a gift of this manor of Wookey. In 1552, after the attainder and execution of Somerset, it would seem as if Barlow had got back the Deanery-house and the manor of Wookey, and then exchanged them for the palace at Wells, and the manor and hundred of Wells with Edward VI. But as Wookey is not mentioned, there is no evidence to prove that it ever got back into the bishop's hands, except that in the Chapter Records (ledger E. 67) there is a certain bargainizatio et venditio of Wookey, to Ed. VI., in Feb. 1552, and in 1553 the manor of Wookey is sold by the Crown to William Dunche, gentleman, of London. As the particulars of the valuation are given in the deed of sale, it is worth while to record them. There are two accounts, the one being rather descriptive of the property and in English, and the other a summary of the rents.

Parcella terrarum¹ possessionum Edwardi nuper Ducis Somersetæ de fellonia attincti ac quondam Episcopi Bathoniæ et Wellensis.

Manerium de Woky.

Valet in Redditibus assissis tam liberorum quam custumariorum tenementorum ibidem per annum solvendis ad festos ibidem usuales; £23 11s. 4d.

Firmis terrarum dominicalium ibidem cum capitali domo manerii per annum, £16 9s. 1d.

Firmis molendinorum ibidem cum xxi^d de firma piscarii aquæ de Marsesheye per annum, £5 14s. 4d.

Exitus manerii ibidem per annum, £1 11s. 7d.

Venditio arundinum ibidem per annum, 7s. 6d.

Venditio bladi videlicet vii mod : frumenti pro 15^d le mod : hoc anno, 8s. 9d.

Perquisitæ curiæ ibidem communibus annis, £1 6s. 8d. ; total, £49 9s. 3d.

Then on the back of this sheet is an account which has been carefully corrected by Henry Lake, auditor, who examined it on January 27th, 1553.² He allows a yearly payment made to the

¹ Particulars of Grants, 7 Ed. VI.

² *i.e.* 1552.

rector and the church of Wookey for the pasturage of one bull and eight oxen, as it was an ancient custom, but he objected to an annuity to Thomas Clerk of 13s. 4d., which had been granted to him and his wife for their lifetime by letters patent of the late bishop of Bath and Wells, and he disallows certain wages or allowances made to the bailiff, viz., 8s., and the messor, viz., 8s., and he states that there remains a yearly rental of £47 9s. 10d. But this seems again to have been corrected, and valued at £48 11s. 2d., by allowing Clerk's annuity, and 8s. to the bailiff, ultimo die Januarii Anno, VII. Regis Edwardi pro Willelmo Dunche. This is the end of the original Latin account, and probably it is the account which was made either at the time that Barlow handed over the manor to Somerset, or by some clerk or official of the court after Somerset's attainder, and when an inventory was taken of the traitor's possessions. When W. Dunche applied for the property in 1553, it would appear that the old valuation was used the second or third time, with some further notes and corrections in English. The last note on the first runs thus—

The clear yearly value of the said manor is £48 11s. 2d.,

Which reckoned at twenty-six years' purchase is £1,262 13s. 4d.

To be paid within twenty days.

To this is attached two other pieces of parchment, on the first of which is the following:—"This bill made the first day of March in the seventh year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Edward VI. by the grace of God, king of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith and of the Church of England and Ireland in earth the Supreme Head, witnesseth that we William Dunche, esquire, and Mary Dunche do require to purchase of the King's Majesty by virtue of His Grace's commission for the sale of lands the Manor, messuage, lands, tenements, rents, and hereditaments, contained and specified in the particulars and rates hereunto annexed being of such clear value as in the same particulars and rates is mentioned. In witness whereof to this bill we have put our seals and subscribed our names the day and the year aforesaid.

"Per me William Dunche."

Then again, on another sheet, is the following :—"The Manor of Wookey, in the County of Somerset, parcel of the possessions of the Bishop of Wells."

Hembury Wood containeth 28 acres, whereof 16 acres being well set with underwood of five years' growth, valued at 9s. 6d. an acre, 9 acres being thin set with underwood of like age, valued at 5s. the acre, and three acres, the residue being for the most part spoiled, valued at 3s. the acre, which, at the several rates aforesaid, amounteth to the sum of £10 6s. The soil of the said 28 acres, valued yearly at 6d. an acre, cometh to the sum of 14s., which, at 20 years' purchase, amounteth to the sum of £14. In the hedgerows and in the closes of the tenements belonging to the said manor, be growing elms for the most part shredde, which suffice for hedge-bote, plough-bote, fire-bote and house-bote for the Manor-place and 62 tenements there, and valued at 12s. the year, and at 6d. the year, and 300 residences at 4d. the year,¹ which, at the several rates aforesaid, amounteth to the sum of £7 10s ; the total, £34 10s. 8d.

The king to discharge the purchaser of all incumbrances, excepting the leases and the covenants of the same, and also the repairs above remembered.

The purchaser to have the issues from the feast of St Michael, the Archangel.

The purchaser to be bound for the value of the woods.

ROBERT BOWIS, WALTER MILDMAVE,
THOM. NORWICEN,² JOHN GOSNOLD.

It is impossible to describe all the corrections in these documents, or to understand the arithmetic. In the Patent Rolls 7 Ed. VI., pt. 4, is the conveyance of Wookey to William Dunche, and the sum mentioned there is £1,330 3s. 11d. One of the leases to which William Dunche would be bound was that of the Manor-house itself, which was then in the occupation of Thomas Clerke. Thomas Clerke died two years afterwards, on March 2nd, 1555, and whether his wife availed herself of the

¹ I do not quite understand this description.

² These were the Commissioners for Survey of King's Courts, and payments of rents and revenues.

terms of the lease which bishop Knight granted, I cannot tell ; but there is no evidence of her burial here, and therefore I am inclined to suppose that she gave up the house and went to live elsewhere. There is some uncertainty as to the possession of the manor in the next reign, for in the Bishop's Temporalities Papers, 2 Philip and Mary, there occurs the following :—"Exitus Manerii. Et de iii^d de toto homagio de Wyke pro redditu vocato le Wynearde Sylver soluto ad terminum Hock et xxii^d et obolo de toto homagio de Wokey pro quodam redditu vocato le Wynearde Sylver soluto ad terminum Hock non reddit hic eo quod oneratur in compotu praepositi de Wokey sicut continetur ibidem."

Now this yearly fee for vineyards, payable on the second Tuesday after Easter Week, would naturally be paid to the lord of the manor, and as far as Woockey was concerned, and not Woockey-hole, this lordship was, at the time of Philip and Mary, in the possession of William Dunche. But if this was the case, I cannot explain this extract from the accounts of the bishop's Temporalities. I have only one supposition to make, and no evidence with which to support it. Dunche was a very strong Protestant, and in the next reign was an active agent of Cecil's. It is just possible that he was not seized of the manor before Edward died, and had therefore to wait until the end of Queen Mary's reign ; and in the meanwhile bishop Bourne so far made good his claim as to make it possible for such an account to be reckoned in the payments due to the bishop of the see. At any rate, whatever may have been the fate of the manor in Queen Mary's reign, it was certainly sold to William Dunche, of London, by Edward VI., and is found in his possession in the second year of Queen Elizabeth. On May 12th, 1552, W. Dunche obtains an annuity for life of £100 from Edward VI. In the same year he obtained a grant of the manor of Lytle Wytnam,¹ in Berkshire, which had been parcel of the Monastery of Abingdon. During the reigns of Henry VIII. and Edward VI. he was auditor of the Mint, and during the reign of Queen Elizabeth he was for some time M.P. for Wallingford. He died in 1597, and on February 22nd, 1597-8,

¹ Little Wittenham.

Edmund Dunche obtains licence to enter upon the manor of Wookey. William Dunche had two sons, Edmund and Walter. The latter was a counsellor of Gray's Inn, and an M.P. for Dunwich, temp. Eliz. He died in 1594, leaving a second son William to succeed to him, or rather it would appear that the son William was born in the year of his father's death. We have now to gather together the threads of our evidence. On July 16th, 27 Eliz., Walter Dunche is granted a lease for twenty-one years of the manor of Avebury. In a title deed, 1614, of the church lands of Wookey, Edmund Dunche is spoken of as Firmarius of the manor of Wookey during the infancy of William Dunche, of Avebury. In 1622 there is another deed which speaks of William Dunche as Dominus Manerii de Wokey. It seems clear, then, that William Dunche, the elder, left the manor of Little Wittenham to his eldest son Edmund, and the manor of Wookey to his second son Walter. But as Walter had died three years before his father, Edmund Dunche, the elder, acts as guardian for his nephew William, the only surviving son of Walter. This William would be under age in 1614, but would be over it in 1622. It was during this period, and in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, that the Manor-house lost much of its former beauty. The chapel which Jocelyn had built was standing when Thomas Clerke took the lease, and we may be quite sure that it existed and was probably used by him to the time of his death in 1555. Who the next tenant was I am not quite sure. But I think Mr. David Trym was the tenant in the early part of the 17th century. He died in 1663 at the advanced age of eighty-eight. His son Valentine, who was baptised at Wookey in 1613, is spoken of as belonging to Wells, and died two years before his father. Valentine held a lease for 99 years of the Manor-house of Evercreech. We now come to the second sale of Wookey manor. On September 1st, 1626, William Dunche obtains a licence to alienate the manor of Wokey and all its appurtenances within the county of Somerset to Samuel Rolle. The licence was as follows :—

“Rex, quibus ad quos, &c., salutem. Sciatis quod nos de gratia nostra speciali ac pro duodecim libris solutis virtute

literarum patentium concessimus et licenciam dedimus ac pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris quantum in nobis est per presentes concedimus et licenciam damus dilectis nobis Willelmo Dunch Armigero et Margaretæ¹ uxori ejus quod ipsi manerium de Woky *alias* Wookey cum pertinenciis ac decem messuagia, decem cotagia, duo molendinas, unum columbarium, viginti gardina, viginti pomaria, centum et viginti acras terrae, quadringenti acras prati, centum et viginti acras pasturæ et bruere, quingenti acras moræ decem et novem solidos decem denarios redditentes, libertatem piscaturæ et liberam warennam cum pertinenciis in Woky, Wookey-hole, *alias* Wookey-hole, Godney, Worth, Henton, Castle, Yardley, Ripple *alias* Ripley, et Bleadney, in comitatu nostro Somersetæ, quæ de nobis tenementa in capite ut dicitur dare possint et concedere et alienare aut cognoscere per finem vel per recuperationem in curia nostra coram justiciariis nostris de Banco aut aliquo alio modo quocumque ad libitum ipsorum Willelmi et Margaretæ dilecto et fideli nostro Samueli Rolle militi et dilectis nobis Hugoni Fortescue armigero Henrico Rolle armigero et Johanni Rolle generoso Habendum et tenendum eisdem Samueli Rolle Hugoni Fortescue, Henrico et Johanni ac heredibus et assignatis suis ad opus et usum ipsorum Samuelis et Hugonis, Henrici et Johannis ac heredum et assignatorum suorum in perpetuum. In cujus rei testimonio, &c., apud Westmonasterium. Sept. 1."

This shews us that the lands of the manor were reckoned at least as at twelve hundred acres, and it is evident that the common fields had by this time been enclosed and allotted. The underwood probably refers to the plantations north of Marley-mede, as Hembury wood had been cut down a few years previously. The manor remained in possession of the Rolles from 1626 to 1769, and as far as I can gather was held by trustees for five members of that family, viz., Samuel Rolle, 1626; Sir Francis Rolle, of Shapwick, 1678; Samuel Rolle, of Shapwick, circa, 1710; John Rolle, son of Samuel Rolle, 1733-1750; and Denys Rolle, of Shapwicke, until his death in 1768, when the manor was sold in plots to many of the former lease-

¹ This Margaret was the daughter of Sir John Cooper, of Rockborne.

holders. John Rolle seems to have changed his name from Rolle to Walter, and I am not sure of the relationship between him and the last lord of the manor, Mr. Denys Rolle. During the time that the manor was intact and in lay hands, there were the following tenants at the Manor-house:—Mr. Thomas Clerke, from 1544 to 1555. During the first half of the 17th century Mr. David Trym lived there, and died there in 1663. Then Mr. Thomas Muttelbury held it until 1711, and after him his son, John Muttelbury, until his death in 1715; and his widow remained here two years afterwards. After that a Mr. T. Strode inhabited it until 1756, and then William Peirce¹ till his death in 1765; and he left it to his sister, Lady Montague Bertie, who died here in 1781. The remainder of the lease was sold by Augusta, Lady Burghersh, to Clement Tudway, and his first tenant was probably Mr. John Meaden, who lived here in 1785, Thomas and Ann Tucker lived here from 1792 to 1836, and Mr. Matthew Teck from 1816 to 1820.

In 1769, William Wellington, of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and John Chubb, of Bicton, in the County of Devon, clerk, trustees under an Act of Parliament of the late Denys Rolle, renew the leases of most of the tenants on the estate, and in the same year offer the whole manor for sale in separate portions. There were one hundred and eighteen lots, amounting to thirteen hundred and twenty-three acres, on which were sixty-one houses or cottages, and on which seven freeholders held quit rents. The estimated yearly value is reckoned at £947 5s. 6d. The actual rental received by the lord of the manor was £57 6s. 1½d., and two hundred and thirty-five eggs, one penny more in lieu of eggs, and one yearly goose. This, of course, does not include occasional fines on the renewal of leases and heriot fines on the death of one of the lives. All the land is leased out on three lives, except the acre called the Reeve of Wookey, which is naturally in hand, and a piece of waste ground which had been lately enclosed, and was let at a fixed yearly rental. The heriot was generally the best beast, sometimes the best piece of household goods, and

¹ *i.e.* William Ekins Peirs, as he was generally called.

occasionally a money payment. It would be interesting to know the names of those copyhold tenants who then bought the freehold of their farms. The following families, I think, certainly bought their holdings then, viz., the Averys, Bands, Barnards, Buttens, Churchouses, Clarkes, Cooks, Elvards, Denbes, Hills, Laxes, Lydes, Pitneys, Salmons, Sheppards, Stottes and Weares, and Mr. Clement Tudway bought the Manor-house and home farm. But with the disappearance of the Manor courts the interest of the manor dissolves into an interest in the general history of the parish.

Some day, perhaps, I may be able to add to the above account some more information concerning the manor; but that will depend very much on those in the parish, who possess old leases and title deeds, and have not as yet allowed me the privilege of looking over them.

The following additional notes on some of the mediæval words in this chapter may be useful:—

Cadavatores were villeins appointed to look after the moors and waste lands, and see that none of the lord's cattle turned out there came to any harm through the neglect of any of the tenants of the Manor.

Capitage.—As the holdings on a manor could not be increased in number, naturally there grew up a number of villeins, whose labour the lord did not want; and towards the end of the fifteenth century these men became a source of trouble to the lord and to the government. Where possible the lord let these superfluous hands out to any employer who guaranteed to produce them when called upon.

Circset, or churchset, was a certain measure of wheat which every man gave on St. Martin's day to holy church. Afterwards it was compounded for, and a money payment was made.

Hallmote was the moot or meeting of the villeins of the Manor in the Manor-hall, under the presidency of the lord, or his deputy the steward.

Hedge-bote and *house-bote* denote the right of the tenant to use timber growing on the farm for the repair of the fences and the farm buildings.

CHAPTER III.

THE CHURCH.

I HAVE not yet found any definite information concerning the building of the Church. No mention is made of its erection in Drokensford's Register, and when the first institution of a vicar occurs there, it seems clear that the church and the vicarage had existed for some time. We must look then to the twelfth or thirteenth century for its erection, and in all probability a church was first built here during the episcopacy of Bishop Robert, 1136-1166. He was the first to give separate estates to certain dignitaries of the cathedral, and having founded the Deanery, endowed it with the Church of Wookey. In the Liber Ruber of the cathedral we read how "*Robertus episcopus ecclesiam de Woky decano dedit.*"¹ Certainly there was a church here in Joscelin's time, for he effects an exchange between the dean and the subdean, making the subdean rector of Wookey, and charging the rectory with the payment of a vicar in Wells Cathedral. This exchange took place between 1209 and 1213, though some such plan had already been decided upon in Savaric's time, 1192-1205. Now in examining the present building it is evident that the oldest portions are the eastern window of the chancel, with the east and north chancel walls and the font. None of these portions present any marked features of a style, but certainly they are later than the twelfth century, and seem to speak of a late thirteenth century architect, influenced by the tastes which afterwards developed the Geometrical or Decorated style. The east window is a triple lancet, with faint attempts at tracery in the head, either plain crockets or cusps. Now as this window is not unlike, as far as it goes, the west window of Burnell's Chapel in the Palace at Wells, it is possible that it was erected about the same time, and if so, then it dates between 1275-1292. During the next hundred and fifty

¹ L. R., f. 13.

years the rest of the church was built, except the south-east chapel; but there is no trace of the former nave, or any evidence as to the size of the first church; and so honeycombed is the nave with vaults that I fear no trace ever will be discovered. There is nothing remarkable about the present building. The pitch of the roof is low, and both aisles and the nave are under one wide roof. The capitals of the pillars on the south are a little earlier than those on the north, and at the east end of both aisles were altars, and through the corners of the chancel walls are two long squints. At the side of the north squint is the staircase to the rood loft, and as on the south the eastern wall has been taken down to give access to the south-east chapel, the squint gives the appearance of great weakness to the southern arm of the chancel arch. But this is only in appearance, because the thrust of the central arch has been provided for by an arch and external buttress on the south-east of the aisle. The chancel was thoroughly repaired in 1423 by bishop Bubwith, and in all probability the flat-headed window in the south of it was inserted at this time, as well as the small door on the south. In 1437 an interesting event occurred concerning the festival of the dedication of the Church. It appears that it was dedicated on the octave of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, *i.e.* September 16th, but as this was an inconvenient time of the year, being harvest time, the Dedication Festival was changed by permission of bishop Stafford, and at the request of the rector, vicar and parishioners, to the Sunday next after St. Jerome's day, *i.e.* September 30th.^{1 2}

The south-eastern chapel is usually supposed to have been built as a mortuary chapel for the remains of Thomas Clarke, who died at the Manor-house in 1555. He left 6s. 8d. for the Church, and desired that he should be buried in it. As the date

¹ Harl. MSS. 6966. Sept. 11, 1439. Festum dedicationis ecclesie de Woky in honorem sancti Matthaei ad petitionem rectoris, vicarii et parochianorum ejusdem mutatur ab octavo Nativitatis Mariae, quod fuit tempus messis, ad dominicam diem proximam post festum sancti Hieronymi et XI dierum indulgentia concessa est qui in illa ecclesia vel cimiterio Orationem Dominicam cum Salutatione Angelica dixerit mente pia.

² c.f. Stafford's Register, f. clix. 6.

of his death is on his monument within this chapel, and a blank is left for that of his wife Anthony, she may have built it during her life time, putting her name on the stone, and leaving a blank space for the date of her death. There is no evidence however that she was buried here, and I think her original intention was never carried out.

The Church then consists of a nave of three bays, and a chancel, north and south aisles, a south porch, a south-east chapel, extending as far east as the wall of the chancel, a lean-to vestry on the north chancel wall, and a small tower containing five bells. On the north-east of the tower there is a spiral staircase running up into a pinnacle at the top, about sixteen feet above the roof of the tower. The dimensions are as follows:—Chancel, 23ft. 6in. \times 14ft. 4in.; nave 40ft. 6in. \times 18ft. 9in.; aisles, 9ft. 2in. \times 9ft. 8in., and same length as the nave; tower, 14ft. square and 63ft. high in three stages; south chapel, 23ft. 6in. by 14ft. 2in.

In 1635 was issued, through the influence of Archbishop Laud, the order for the removal of the Communion Table to the eastern wall of the chancel, and for railings to be placed before it as a protection against profanation.¹ Bishop Pierce was especially careful to carry out this order as far as this diocese was concerned, and the parish seems to have then procured a new altar, and to have fenced it round with rails. The altar, which is still in use, and the rails which are now used as a low screen before the south chapel, belong to this date, and the date 1635 is carved in four places on the rails. During the eighteenth century numerous repairs went on in the way of painting and adapting the old benches to the pew system, and the churchwarden's accounts are full of items concerning such charges.

In 1711 Mr. Fry is paid five guineas for painting, in the Church, the Ten Commandments, the Creed and the Lord's Prayer.

In 1721 Robert Broadbeard is paid one shilling for a book concerning the plague.

¹ Gardiner's England, vol. 8, p. 114.

In 1728 the weathercock, which had only been put up in 1705, has to be taken down and repaired.

In 1744 the nave was reseated in elm by Mr. Parfitt, of Wells, the seats in the north and south aisles being repaired with the old material from the nave, at a total cost of £60.

In 1748 the Tenor Bell was recast by Mr. Bilbee, and the five bells were rehung by Bush, of Chewstoke.

In 1783 the churchwardens let to Mr. Savidge one of the new pews in the north aisle, next to Mr. Mackinnon's, at a rental of five shillings a year.

In 1795 the parish, at a vestry held January 27th, agreed to the proposal of Mr. Michell, of Burcott, to build a gallery in a place then decided upon, the stairs going up into the singing gallery to be turned into the belfry for this purpose.

Numerous small repairs are from time to time recorded, and during the reign of Queen Anne it would appear from the large amount of lead purchased and made use of that the greater part of the Nave roof was releaded.

In 1772 the Vestry Room was built by Mr. Webber, and paid for out of the Church Endowment Fund.

In 1776 the Church Tower was releaded.

In addition to these entries the churchwarden's Presentments to the Archdeacon give us some information. The confession that seems to be written between the lines of every one of them is that the churchwardens knew well what ought to be done, but that they had not the energy to undertake it, and so they hand on the information to the Archdeacon.

In 1730 they report that the King's Arms had fallen down.

In 1735 they complain that tiles, boards and lumber lie in the north aisle, and ought to be removed.

In 1743 complaint is lodged against the lay impropiator, Mr. T. Peirs, on account of the ruined state of the Church fences and the chancel.

In 1746 Mr. R. Kingston is appointed sequestrator and curate in charge of the parish.

In 1765 complaint is lodged against W. Ekins Peirs for not repairing the north wall of the churchyard.

In 1739 the Bible, which is as early as 1623, is reported as imperfect; and ten years afterwards, this complaint being repeated year by year, a new one was procured. The old one still exists, carefully preserved in the Parish Chest, but I do not know what has become of this second Bible.

CHURCH PLATE.

The sacred vessels are very interesting. The chalice is a long silver Elizabethan one, provided with a close fitting cover, and has the genuine date 1572 on the handle or knob of the cover. In this year many of the local churches gave up their old mediæval plate and purchased new vessels, probably following the example of the Cathedral, and marking the crisis on the Papal excommunication of Queen Elizabeth. The paten, flagon, and a second chalice are also of silver, and are of the time of George I. There is also a large pewter flagon and two pewter alms plates, the date of which I cannot fix. None of these vessels have any inscription or lettering which would give a hint as to the donor or the occasion when they were obtained for the Church, and it is impossible to hazard an opinion on account of the vagueness of our information as to the exact time when they were acquired.

PARISH CHESTS.

There are three parish chests, concerning which some record ought to be preserved. The earliest has no date, and is made of thin oak, now thickly coated with paint. It has the initials E. B. and R. L. on the front panel, and I think there can be no doubt that they stand for Edward Barlow and Richard Lyde, who in 1634 were sidesmen together, and probably about that time were also churchwardens together. The second is a small oak chest, for which now a stand has been provided, and it bears the date 1689, with the initials T. C. and H. M., *i.e.* those of the churchwardens for that period, Thomas Corpe and Hugh Merifield.

The third is a plain strong oak chest, with two locks and a double padlock. It was provided for the Church by the churchwardens in 1764, and was made by James Mills, of Wells.

In 1871 the Church was thoroughly repaired under the supervision of Mr. C. E. Giles, at a cost of £1,300. A reredos and five stained glass windows have been given, chiefly in memory of persons connected with the parish, and the panels of the lower part of the 16th century screen, which had stood under the arch between the south aisle and the south-east chapel were made use of in a new pulpit. The organ, which had been given to the Church in 1836 by Mr. T. Wear, was also enlarged and removed to its present position. In 1883 a new clock, chiming the quarters, was given to the Church by A. T. Burnett-Stuart, Esq., the successor of the Godwyns at the Rectory-house.

In October, 1772, Mr. Edward Band, of Wookey Hole, who had purchased a considerable amount of land at the sale of the manor, obtained a faculty for a pew, but this had lapsed long before the restoration of the church.

THE BELLS.

There are five bells in the tower, of which the oldest is the third. The inscriptions are as follows :—

- 1.—The Tenor Bell. “Mr. Thomas Stroode, Mr. Bayley, churchwardens. T. Bilbie fecit. 1719.” This was an older bell, which being cracked was recast in that year. It was broken again before 1748. Mr. Bayley was not churchwarden in 1719, T. Stroode having as his partner Thomas Stott in that year.
- 2.—The second has the inscription, “Geeve thanks to God, 1615.” Possibly the gift of Robert Godwyn on the birth of his eldest son.
- 3.—The third has two holes in the head of it, but they have been carefully plugged up with a nut and a shield of leather. It has the inscription “✠ IS § Nazarenus § rex § Iuder̄m̄.”
- 4.—The fourth bears the note, “Mr. George Cook, Mr. George Baker, churchwardens, 1735. T. Bilbie.”
- 5.—The lightest bell has a number of stamps upon it, and between every one is a stamp of the Tudor Rose, surmounted by a royal thistle. On the side of the bell is a

shield with the date 1639, and the letters R. B., E. H., and A. R. The first pair are those of the churchwardens for the year, viz., Robert Buxton and Edward Hippisley, and the third I think stands for Richard Abowen.

THE FREE CHAPEL OF HENTON.

I must not, in this account of the Church of Wookey, forget to mention the old and the new chapel at Henton. When the old one was built I cannot say. It stood in the field west of the present building, and was pulled down in 1550 by William Chapell, of Wookey, who appropriated the lead, stone and bell to his own use. A copy of the report of the inquisition, which was held in 1562 to obtain information concerning this piece of robbery, is in the parish chest, and is as follows :—

“*Inquisitio indentata capta apud Glastonburie in comitatu Somerset octavo die Augusti anno regni dominae Elizabethae Dei gratiâ Angliae, Franciae et Hiberniae Reginae Fidei Defensoris &c. quarto, coram nobis Roberto Penruddock et Johanne Harryngton, armigero, et Edwardo Wilshire, generoso, commissionariis dictae dominae Reginae virtute commissionis ejusdem Dominae Reginae de Curia Saccarii eis directae huic inquisitioni annexae per sacramentum Willelmi Drew, Ricardi Merifield, Johannis Wilcock, Johannis Wilmot, Johannis Bolting, Johannis Brock, Thomae Churchouse, Johannis Edwards, Johannis Turnour, Roberti Plentin, Ricardi Gonwyn et, Johannis Marlow proborum et legalium hominum comitatus predicti. Qui dicunt super sacramenta sua quod quidam Willelmus Chapell nuper de Woky in comitatu predicto diruit et postravit unam liberam capellam vocatam St. Thomas Chapel et certum plumbum et unam campanam ad valenciam cxxvi^s et viii^d ab inde cepit xii annis elapsis et ea convertit ad usum suum proprium absque aliquo jure quae premissa juratores prædicti dicunt quod de jure devenirent ad manus dominae Reginae auctoritate et pretextu cujusdam acti parliamenti tenti apud Westmonasterium anno primo Edwardi VI. nuper Régis Angliae inde editi et provisi. Qamquidem summam Johannes Chapell executor predicti Willelmi Chapell concedit coram commissionariis remunerare manibus dictae dominae Reginae secun-*

dum tenorem acti predicti. Et ulterius dicunt juratores predicti quod quidam Wm. Turrie nuper de Welles in comitatu predicto diruit evulsit unam aliam liberam capellam vocatam Horringdon Chapell infra parochiam de Welles predicto et certum plumbum super eandam capellam existens ad quantitatem quinque tounes ad valenciam xx^{li} et ij campanas ad valenciam cxx^s et unam calicem argenti cum tectura ad valenciam cxxxiii^s et iv.^d et marenium, lapides et ferrum valoris cxl^s v^d in toto cxxiv^{li} viii^s iv.^d citra decem annis elapsis cepit et implicavit ad usum suum proprium et eadem absque jure detinuit a tempore nuper regis Edwardi sexti et a manibus Marie nuper Angliæ Reginae ac a manibus predictæ dominae Elizabethæ nunc Angliæ Reginae quæ de jure nunc remunerare debet ad usum dictæ dominae reginae virtute et pretextu acti parliamenti predicti. In cujus rei testimonio tam predictorum commissioneriorum quam juratorum predictorum huic inquisitioni sigilla alternatim apposuerunt. Datum die, anno et loco supradictis.

ROBERT PENRUDDOCK.

JOHN HARYNGTON.

EDWARD WILSHIRE.

Three labels attached, but no seals.

The above gives us some insight into the uncertainty and lawlessness of the times, when Bishop Barlow was being squeezed between the Protector and the Crown, and the former was gathering up every piece of church property into his own hands. The loss that Henton then sustained was not repaired until this century. During the time when Mr. Thorpe was vicar of Wookey an effort was made to build a church once more at Henton. Canon Barnard, the vicar of St. Cuthbert's, helped very materially in the cause, and at last, on Wednesday, October 20th, 1847, a building, consisting of a nave and chancel, with a bell turret at the west end of the nave roof, was consecrated. It was dedicated to our Lord under the title Christchurch, Henton; and at the same time the Rev. William James Shearly was instituted as the first vicar. Since then there has been four others, viz. :—

1870.—Augustus William Grafton.

1875.—Sydenham Harry Augustus Hervey.

1876.—John Palmer.

1880.—Walter Goldin Alford.

CHAPTER IV.

THE RECTORY AND THE RECTORS.

IN speaking of the church it has been mentioned that the first Rector of Wookey was the first Dean of Wells. Bishop Robert, 1136-1166, endowed the new dean of Wells with the church of Wookey. It would be interesting to discover whether he assigned to this office part of his own demesne here, or simply took a portion of the general estate with which Giso had endowed the cathedral, and allowed the dean to use it as peculiarly his own. In all probability the latter course was adopted. This endowment, however, was soon found to be too small for such an important office as that of the dean. When the number of prebendaries began to increase, and each provided for their vicars at Wells out of their prebendal estates, the regulation of such a body grew in difficulty and in importance. Now it is not quite certain whether Bishop Robert founded the subdeanery as well as the deanery. Certainly it seems not only to be in existence, but to have been in existence some time when Joscelin, in 1209, sanctioned the exchange between the dean and the subdean of their lands in Wookey and Wedmore. In the *Liber Ruber*, bishop Savaric is mentioned as sanctioning some such scheme. However, this transaction was not simply an exchange, but also a large increase of income for the dean. For as Wookey was small, and the bishop himself had a Manor which included the greater part of the parish, there was not any opportunity to increase the dean's endowment here. So the subdean was called upon to give up his estate at Wedmore, and the dean to give up his rectory at Wookey, and the dean received instead the subdean's estate, together with the rectory of Wedmore, and the subdean became the rector of Wookey. This formal exchange was sanctioned by Bishop Joscelin on June 3rd, 1209, and on September 13th, 1213, we learn that the rectory was then worth

in rent of demesne lands £3 19s. 5d., customary rents £1 1s. 4d., several tithes £10 13s. 4d., total £15 14s. 1d. After deducting from the present rectorial glebe those allotments in the moors that were assigned to this rector in 1786, and also those fields that are now situated in what formerly was a part of the Wookey common fields, it would appear that the original endowment, in addition to the tithes and certain mortuary fees, consisted of about $37\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land. In 1235, Peter of Chichester, dean of Wells, died leaving certain lands in Marley Mead, and Bishop Joscelyn appropriates them *ad opus episcopi*. Now since part of the rectorial glebe is in Marley meadow, it seems not unlikely that this portion of land was part of the original grant of Bishop Robert in 1140, which had been leased out to Dean Peter for his life, and that ultimately it was divided between the subdean and the Vicars' Choral, or chantry priests of Wells. In 1541 the subdean and the Vicars' Choral are scheduled in the Valor Ecclesiasticus as possessing lands at Marley Mead. Dean Peter's interest in lands at Yarley Joscelyn bought for £3. In 1291, for the taxatio of Nicholas IV., the rectory was valued at £20 a year.

About the year 1310 there was a prolonged controversy between Dean John Godele and William de Yatton, the sub-dean. It seems that the sub-dean had been visiting ecclesiastically the parishes of Wells, Wookey, Evercreech, Chilcompton and Westbury, and this conduct of his was resented by the dean. At last it was brought before Bishop Drokensford, who, in October, 7th, 1321, gave his decision. The sub-dean was to have visitatorial powers in Wells and its suburb in the absence of the dean, but Wookey the Bishop takes under his own and his successor's supervision "*ac dictæ ecclesie de Woky visitacionem ad nos et successores nostros jure episcopali pertinere debere ordinamus.*" On the sub-dean also he imposes perpetual silence concerning this matter, and fines him for the benefit of the dean in ten casks of wine, or their value in money. In the *Nonæ Rolls*¹ of the 14 Edward III, *i.e.* 1340-1, the commissioners for Wookey, Thomas

¹ *c.f.* *Nonæ Rolls* in vol. of Lay Subsidy, Somerset. Record Office, 14 Edward III.

Bernard, William Neel, Richard atte Putte, Hugh atte Chapele, John Dukes, John Stokelyng and John Robeir say they are not able to tax the church of Wookey, because the rector there has in demesne of the endowment of his church, arable lands, meadows, one dovecot, one mill, the tithes of hay, offerings and dues, and the small tithes, which are worth yearly £13 6s. 8d. They say that the ninth bale of sheep skins is worth £vi xiii. iv. The Commissioners have included the vicarial tithes with those of the rector. The glebe mill mentioned here I have not yet identified, nor have I found any record of it elsewhere. In 1423, bishop Bubwith sequestered the rectory on account of the dilapidated state of the Church, owing to the neglect of Nicholas Mockyng, the sub-dean. The vicar of Wookey, with John Halbkyn, of Woky, and John Thomas, of Wedmore, are constituted guardians of the rectorial endowments "*ad competenter ac sufficienter reparacionem defectuum notorie apparentium ac existentium realiter in cancello dictae ecclesiae ac mansionis et edificiarum eidem pertinentium.*"

In 1444,¹ John Raynold, sub-dean and rector, leases to John Edwards, junior, and Alice, his wife, for their lives, a messuage, with curtilage in Henton, at an annual rent of 3s. 4d.; the witnesses being William Gascoigne, William Voel, John Chapelle, John atte Castle, John Brownyng. Feast of St. George, 22 Henry VI.

In 1533,² William Bowerman, sub-dean and rector, leases for eight years to John Trench, "*Chapman of Norton Canons,*" the rectory house and lands, at an annual rental of £22. Oct. 15th. 25 Henry VIII.

In 1541 we have the value of the benefice at the time of Henry VIII's survey of Church lands. We read there that

Woky annexa est subdecanatui ibidem. William Boureman is the sub-dean. The rectory is annexed to the sub-deanery, and is worth yearly in demesne lands £3 19s. 5d.; in rent of customary tenants, £1 1s. 4d.; in tithes, £10 13s. 4d.; in oblations, with other offerings, £6 5s. 11d.; total, £22.

¹ Wells Cathedral MSS., 304. ² W. C. MSS., 751-335.

In annual payment to one vicar choral in Wells Cathedral 5s.;

And there remains to the rector £21 15s.;

The tithe of this is 46s. 6d.

In 1548, February 25th, William Bowerman, the sub-dean, leases to William Godwyn, of Wells, the rectory house and lands for eighty years, at an annual rent of £22. He reserved, however, for himself and his successors the advowson of the Church and the wood at Stroud; this latter, of course, in case he or his successors should have to repair the chancel. This lease gives us the first description of the property I have been able to find. He leaves "all his rectory and parsonage, mansion-places, houses, orchards, gardens, barns, stalls, culver-houses, and stables and all the glebe lands, pastures, meadows, woods and moors; and also all messuages, fines, tithes, fruits, mortuaries and other issues and emoluments.

Henceforth the family of the Godwyns were the leaseholders of the rectory for more than 150 years, and during the greater part of this time they were the tenants of the Rectory-house. We will have something to say about them when we discuss the families of Wookey and their history.

From this time it becomes difficult to trace the records of the benefice. It was in private hands, and doubtless the papers were destroyed from time to time as a new lease was drawn up. We have, however, a copy made subsequent to the year 1706, of the terrier of the rectory property in 1634, and this gives us a full account of the houses and all the lands belonging to them. It was made October 23rd, 1634, by Thomas Mydleham, vicar; Thomas Churchouse, Richard Abowen, churchwardens; Edward Barlowe, John Fussell, John Smith, *alias* Hooper, and John Chappell, sidesmen; Robert Godwyn and David Trym, gentlemen; Richard Lyde, John Corpe, John Taylor, *alias* Buxton, William Cottle, husbandmen. The finding of the above jury is signed also by Henry Turner, John James, John Browning, John Browning, Richard Gullock, and Robert Poole.

The parsonage house contained a hall, a parlour, a kitchen, a buttery, a scullery, a pantry, and a brewhouse, with chambers

over them one storey high; a coal-house, two stables, a malt-house with a loft over it, a wagon-house, a hog-stye with a hen-roost, a cow-stall, an ox-stall, a barn, a hay-house, an ear-house, a fattening-stall, a dove-house with a garden, two orchards and a court adjoining, and three acres¹ in the common moors belonging to it, called Waterhays.

A tenement, called Webs, containing a hall, another room, a loft over the hall and an hay-house, and half an acre in the common moor.

A house in the churchyard, containing one hall and a buttery, with a loft over them.

A house at Henton, containing a hall, a buttery, with a chamber over the buttery, a barn, a hay-house, a garden and an orchard. The following glebe lands are also specified:—Twenty-three and a half acres of meadow land, called Hulk Acre, Hornsmead, Gapper's Stile, Pressmoor, Stonemead, Marley-mead. Forty-nine acres of pasture land at Trenley, Rushlands, Holibrook, Barleigh, Stroud, Highovers, Gaglie Lane, and on the way to Litley Bridge. Seventy-two acres of arable lands in the common fields of Wookey, known as Wookey-field, West-field, East-field, North-field and Bicknoll-field.

The tithes of corn and all other grain, teazel, hemp, flax, turnips; the tithe of hay and of sixty acres of rectorial glebe at Paddimore; the tithe of geese, coppice, underwood and moots² when any trees shall be rooted up.

Ten shillings from the lord of the manor payable at Michaelmas, 8s. 4d., called Martin's Rent,³ from ten copyhold tenements in the village of Wookey, and 4d. every Easter from the vicar of the parish.

This full account of the endowment of the rectory is followed shortly after by the report of the Commissioners of 1650.⁴ The

¹ It would almost appear from this as if the strips in the common fields were each half an acre. But by this time many of the strips must have been thrown together.

² Moots, *i.e.* Trunks with large roots.

³ A survival of circset, payable on St. Martin's day.

⁴ Lambeth Library MSS., Survey of Church Lands, 1649, vol. 1, p. 241.

survey of Church lands, ordered by the Commons of England as part of the fulfilment of the Act for the abolishing of deans, deans and chapters, canons and prebends of cathedral and collegiate churches and chapels, took place during the years 1649 and 1650. The surveyors for the rector of Wookey were William Richardson, Alexander Lawson, Nicholas Combe and James Hibbins. Their account is as follows :—

Annual Rents Reserved.	All that Mansion-house, called the Parsonage-house situated, lying and being in Wookey, in the County of Somerset, we value at	£10.
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All those tenths and tithes of all, and all measures of corn and grain yearly coming, growing, arising and renewing within the parish of Wookey aforesaid, together with all the tenths and tithes to the said rectory, belonging and appertaining, with the appurtenances, we value communibus annis at

£80.

Memorandum.—All the premises before-mentioned, with the appurtenances, were by William Roberts, doctor in divinity, sub-dean in the Cathedral Church of Wells, in the County of Somerset, by his indenture, dated 13th November, II. Charles ; demised unto William Prowse, his heirs and assigns, To hold for and during the natural lives of Elizabeth Godwyn, wife of Robert Godwyn, of Wookey aforesaid, gentlemen. Joseph Godwyn and Edward Godwyn, sons of the said Robert and Elizabeth, and the lives of every of them longest living ; paying therefore yearly during the said term, unto the said sub-dean and his successors, the sum of £22, at the two most usual feasts or terms in the yearly equal portions over and above the said rent, per annum, £127 17s. 8d.

Rent £22 Appor-	
tioned	
To the lands ..£10	
To the tithes ..£12	
	£22
Dec. 2, 1650.	
WM. WEBB.	

Memorandum, by covenant, of the said leases, the said lessor and his successors are to bear and pay all and singular rents, duties, and sums of money due to be paid, as well as to the king and his successors, as to any other Ordinaries out of the said Rectory or Parsonage. The said lessee covenanteth to pay

the said rent at the Font Stone in the Cathedral Church of Wells aforesaid. And if the said rent or any part thereof be unpaid by the space of three months next after any the said feasts, in which it ought to be paid, that then the lessor may re-enter. The lives are all in being. The advowson, patronage, nomination and right of presentation to the parish church of Wookey did belong to the sub-dean aforesaid, as appropriator of the Rectory aforesaid.

Returned into the Registrar's office, September 27th, 1650.

This valuation seems to be based on the supposition of a yearly rent, without any fine being paid for renewal of lease; the improvements being reckoned in the estimation of the yearly value. In 1681, February 28th, the Rev. William Levinz, the sub-dean, leases the rectory once more to the Godwyn family. This time it is to the second Mr. Joseph Godwyn, of Wookey, at the usual rental of £22. In this lease I find Stroud wood included among the glebe lands. Formerly Stroud wood was specially excluded, in order to make provision for the repair of the chancel; and had it been on this occasion also, there would not occur sixty years hence so many complaints against the lay impropiator for his neglect of the chancel fabric. The lease is on the lives of Joseph Godwyn and Ellianor, his now wife, and Richard Godwyn, their son. Andrew Hall and Joseph Elvard are appointed to give seisin of the property. This is the last occasion of the Godwyns having the lease of the rectory, and from them it passed into the hands of the Peirs. Joseph Godwyn died here in 1725, and Eleanor in 1731. Richard, the son, does not appear to have lived here after his father's death, and in all probability the Godwyn's sold their interest in the lease early in the century to the Peirs; keeping for themselves only the house and a portion of the land. In 1686, Thomas Peirs, of Wells, a grandson of bishop Peirs, and son of William Piers, archdeacon of Taunton, died, leaving in his will £100 "to the child his wife now goeth with, if a son," for the purchase of his life in the parsonage of Wookey. The child proved to be a boy, and was named Thomas after his father; and about 1709 married Penelope, daughter of William Matravers, of

Norton St. Philip's. It seems probable, from the testimony of the Church rate-book, that he came to reside here immediately after the death of Mrs. Godwyn. There is a tablet in the tower to the memory of all his children. His wife died in 1752, and he followed her in the next year. Now as the rectorial property appears to continue in the hands of the Peirs' family until 1781, it would seem probable that one of the sub-deans, in the early part of this century, had granted to the Peirs' family a new lease, and most likely this was about the time of the death of Mr. Godwyn.¹ On the death of Thomas Peirs, William Ekins Peirs, his cousin, succeeded to the lease, and resided in the Rectory-house. He was a bachelor, and in addition to the rectory he became a tenant, and possibly a leaseholder of the Manor-house. He died in 1765, leaving his interest in both places to his sister, Lady Elizabeth Montague Bertie. It was during the time of the Piers that the great change took place both in the appearance of the house and in its name, and if it is true that the small oriel over the porch, and the corbels and spandrils had formerly been in the Manor-house, then in all probability the rebuilding of the Rectory-house occurred during the occupation of it, and of the Manor-house, by William Ekins Peirs, or Lady Elizabeth Bertie, his sister. Phelps says that the change took place during the tenancy of Colonel Peirs, but I have found no documentary evidence concerning it, nor yet as to the change of name. It is generally agreed that the corbels and carved spandrils originally came from Jocelyn's cloisters, south of the cathedral, which were taken down when bishop Bekynton and his executors built the present cloisters. Why the Rectory-house was called Mellifont Abbey, I have not been able to discover. Lady Elizabeth Bertie died in 1781 at the Manor-house, but up to the time of her death she was paying a church rate for Mellifont Abbey as well, and I think after her death the place was inhabited by Mr Edward Band. When the place was rebuilt, the house in the churchyard, mentioned in the Terrier of 1634, was brought in as offices for the enlarged house.

¹ *i.e.* about 1725.

Two more leases of the rectorial property were made after this. On July 1st, 1790, the Rev. Charles Moss leased it to John Salmon, Esq., of Wookey, on the lives of Sarah, Francis and Hester Salmon. On April 15th, 1837, Henton Inn, part of the rectorial property was leased out, and on April 17th, 1837, the Rev. C. E. Keene leases Mellifont Abbey, as it was now regularly called, to William Watson and John Lax, Esqrs., trustees for the Salmon family.

Since then the property has been enfranchised by the Salmon family, and the freehold of the house and gardens is now in the possession of A. Burnett-Stuart, Esq., the present tenant. He has possessed himself also of the freehold of the Manor-house, and reviving the times of William Ekins Peirs and Lady Elizabeth Bertie, has not indeed created such changes in the building, but has altered the course of the river Axe and turned it into the northern bed of the moat that used to exist round the Manor-house, and so like them has wrought an improvement at the expense of history.

The following is the list of the rectors of Wookey being sub-deans of Wells; Ivo, however, was the first rector, being the first dean, and he was succeeded by Ricardus de Spakeston. At the time of the exchange Thomas Dinant was the sub-dean, and with him our list begins. I am indebted for it to my friend the sub-dean.

- 1199. Thomas Dinant
- 1213. Alard
- 1219. Lambert
- 1230. Robert de Berkeley
- 1233. William
- 1237. William de Button
- 1241. Walter St. Quintin
- 1245. Hugh de Rumenal
- 1255. John de Axebrugge
- 1266. William le Rous
- 1297. Richard de Winton
- 1312. William de Yatton
- 1324. Walter Brown
- 1334. Walter de Burton

- 1334. Walter de Hulle
- 1342. Matthew de Valence
- 1342. William de Lavinton
- 1350. William Camel
- 1382. Thomas Bingham
- 1391. Nicholas Pontesbury
- 1409. Nicholas Mockyng
- 1424. John Reynold
- 1450. Thomas Boleyn
- 1457. John Spekyngton
- 1462. John Wansford
- 1491. William Boket
- 1500. Robert Widowe
- 1505. John Hans
- 1508. Reginald West
- 1516. Thomas Lovell
- 1524. James Fitzjames
- 1531. William Boureman
- 1572. Philip Bisse
- 1584. Jacob Bisse
- 1607. Robert Scott
- 1614. Thomas James
- 1629. William Roberts
- 1638. Thomas Bayley
- 1660. James Dugdale
- 1660. James Masters
- 1665. Francis Mundy
- 1679. William Levintz
- 1698. Henry Layng
- 1716. John Whitehead
- 1721. John Rogers
- 1729. Timothy Collins
- 1765. Sir Thomas Panson
- 1773. John Paine
- 1774. Charles Moss
- 1800. Charles Thomas Barker
- 1812. Houston Radcliffe
- 1822. Charles Edmund Ruck Keene
- 1849. Edgar Huxtable
- 1861. Charles Marcus Church

CHAPTER V.

THE VICARAGE AND THE VICARS.

OWING to the loss of the earlier episcopal Registers it is impossible to state the exact date of the creation of the vicarage. As with the church, so with the vicarage ; they are both seen coming out of the cloud of past events ; we do not find them in their beginning, but only when fully grown, and we are left to conjecture on mere hints, culled from analogy, to enable us to state their age. In 1291, the proposed crusade of Edward I. was an excuse for imposing a tax on all church property. The tenths of all spiritual goods of England, Scotland, and Wales were granted to Edward by Pope Nicholas IV., and from the lists then drawn up, and which are still preserved, we are able to give some date to many of the older vicarages. As the vicar of Wookey does not appear on this list, we may conclude either that then the vicarage did not exist, or else that the vicar escaped taxation on a plea of poverty. Now during the latter half of the 13th century the popes were particularly active in compelling all beneficed clergy either to reside in their parishes, or to create and endow out of their emoluments perpetual vicarages. The fashion of sending a priest to a parish, without allowing him any specified or adequate income was condemned, and so we find that in England many ancient vicarages begin during the early years of the 14th century. If the Registers of bishop William de Marchia, or bishop Walter Hasleshaw, who were bishops of Bath and Wells from 1293 to 1308, should ever be discovered, either amid the archives of the Vatican, or elsewhere, I firmly believe that the institution of the vicarage of Wookey would be found recorded therein. The Registers at Wells begin with that of bishop Drozensford, 1309-1329, and with the exception of the gap from 1366-1400 are fairly complete, and bring us down to the present time. The list of the vicars begins, as far as we have

any really dependable evidence, with the episcopate of Drokenford, and the omissions that are conspicuous, and the reason for the absence of dates before some of the names will be explained further on. In Drokenford's Register, the appointment of William Brid is not coupled, as is usual afterwards, with the name of his predecessor, and the cause of the vacancy. This may be because Brid was the first vicar. But if so, then it is strange that, as with so many other parishes, the creation of the vicarage is not recorded also. On the other hand, it is not safe to argue from the silence of the register, because that was the age when vicarages were beginning, and the form of recording the institution of a vicar would only become stereotyped after some lapse of time. The date of institution is given whenever I have been able to discover it.

		1246. John le Poch
April	6, 1313.	William Brid
Feb.	28, 1331.	John de Suttona
March	30, 1338.	Thomas de Milverton
Dec.	15, 1348.	John de Camel
March	21, 1349.	Richard de Haslaye
		1389. John Compton
		John Baker
Dec.	25, 1404.	John Brent
March	21, 1435.	Thomas Goldcliffe
July	11, 1453.	John Combe
Aug.	22, 1472.	John Wellyknow
April	8, 1477.	John Edwards
June	22, 1506.	John Cayrell
May	7, 1516.	Richard Allwell
		Richard Eryngton
March	30, 1546.	Alexander Berkeley
		Henry Howe
Jan.	18, 1559.	Christopher Webster
Oct.	10, 1569.	Gilbert Harvey
Feb.	17, 1572.	John Kelway
Feb.	13, 1592.	Richard Poughnell
Dec.	9, 1593.	Thomas Mydleham
		Samuel Yerworth
Jan.	6, 1661.	John Gadd
Feb.	2, 1672.	Thomas Stott
		Morgan Jones

Edward Wooton
William Hill
Thomas Ford

July 14, 1747. Robert Kingston
Aug. 7, 1748. Henry Arnold
Dec. 22, 1778. William Keate
March 9, 1795. Evan Davies
March 10, 1801. Charles Moss
Nov. 23, 1801. John Stevens Phillott
Jan. 26, 1839. Edward Sneyd
Nov. 20, 1839. William Thorpe
Dec. 13, 1849. Theodosius Burnett Stuart
July 17, 1868. Morton Drummond
Dec. 2, 1879. Thomas Scott Holmes

The earliest record of the Vicarage-house is in one of the title deeds relating to the endowments of the Church. It is dated January 14th, 1420-1, (7 Henry V.,) and in it a certain tenement is described as extending to a certain lane, *ex opposito Messuagii de antiquo vocati la Vikersplace*. From this it is clear that a house had been in existence here for some years. Now, unfortunately, the Bishops' Registers are lost for the time between 1363-1401, and consequently a statement in another document leaves the way open for some time. The earliest deed concerning the endowments of the Church bears the date 1389 (13 Rich. II.) and in it a house called *Strecchistenement* is said to have lately been held by John Compton, *capellanus perpetuus*. This John Compton may have been the immediate predecessor of John Baker, as vicar of Wookey, and if so, Strachey's tenement was occupied for a time by the vicars. I cannot find any other statement concerning this man Compton,¹ nor yet of *Strecchistenement* where he lived, and therefore I can only mention this as what appears to me to be a possible conjecture, and it is only on this evidence that I have ventured to put John Compton among the list of vicars. It will have been noticed that I have inserted the name of a vicar in the middle of the 13th century. This man was not a perpetual vicar, but I think he was acting as the deputy of the sub-dean.²

¹ But c.f., p. 39.

² Liber Albus 1, fol. 66 b.

In the Chapter Records at Wells there is an *inspeximus* by the Chapter of a charter of Hugh de Roumenal, sub-dean of Wells and rector of Wookey, of a grant of two acres of land at Wookey to John le poch de Exon, clerk, and Juliana de Wokey, his wife. Now in the East-field of Wookey the rectors had two acres of freehold between adjoining strips that belonged to the bishops as lords of the manor, and these two acres were afterwards given as a perpetual endowment to the vicarage. They consist of the strip of land that reaches from the Back Lane as far as East-court House. It seems probable, therefore, that as these two acres were regarded as sufficient endowment for the vicars afterwards, they were given by Hugh de Roumenal on a life lease to this John le poch Clerk, because he was acting as his deputy here in the parish at that time. On this account I have ventured to place him at the head of our list.

In 1438 there is no doubt where the vicar's house is, for on August 12th John Reynold, sub-dean of Wells, grants to the vicar of Wookey and his successors two acres of land, with their appurtenances, lying in the Eastfield of Wookey, between the land of the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells on both sides, and which abuts upon the house of the said vicar; a yearly payment of fourpence being made to the said John Reynold and his successors for ever. In the Clerical Subsidy of 1426, the vicarage is valued at six marks; and again in 1445, during the episcopate of Bekynton, when a tenth of Church property was granted by Convocation in aid of the war against the Turks and Saracens, the vicar of Wookey is assessed in ten marks, and pays tenpence.

In 1535, in Henry the VIII.'s Valor Ecclesiasticus, the entry concerning the vicarage is as follows:—

WOKY.—Ricardus Eryngton Vicarius Vicaria ibidem. Valet per annum, viz., in terris dominicalibus, 3s. 4d. Decimæ lanæ et agnorum lxi^s viii^d. Oblaciones cum decimis personalibus £ix x^s viii^d. Sic nunc in toto remanet clare, £xii xv^s viii^d.

The vicarage there is worth yearly, in rent of glebe lands in demesne, 3s. 4d.; tithes of wool and lambs, 6ls. 8d.; oblations

and personal tithes, £9 10s. 8d. So now there clearly remains £12 5s. 8d.

It is clear, then, from this that land in Wookey—and that probably some of the best in the parish—was worth only 1s. 8d. the acre. But this is further reduced when we remember that such land would bring with it certain pasturage on the commons and moors of the parish, and possibly certain strips in the arable fields of the place.

Our next record concerning the vicarage is the statement in the terrier of 1634, which was made during the incumbency of Mr. Mydleham, and in it we get our only description of the vicarage house itself. The names of the jury are given in the history of the Rectory.

The vicarage house contains one hall and a kitchen, without chambers over them ; two parlours and a buttery, with chambers over them, and a little study, with a barn and stall, a hay-house, a hog-stye, and a stable. Item—one garden backsides and orchard, and a close called the Croft, containing in all two acres ; and one way for the vicar of Wookey aforesaid, leading from the Vicarage-house aforesaid towards the Church there, lying between the backside house and garden of Richard Web, of Wookey aforesaid on the east, and the Church Barton and Church House of Wookey aforesaid on the west, paying yearly to the King's Majesty and his successors for the same as a chief rent, the sum of fourpence being demanded.

Item—the Easter Book, containing therein personal and privy tithes, offerings, church duties, the tithe of kine white and the tithe of calves, colts, lambs, pigs, eggs, dove-houses, and of all other living creatures except the geese.

Item—the tithe of wool, gardens, orchards, and all fruit trees within the said parish, saving such as are tithe free to the rectory or parsonage of Wookey aforesaid.

This account of the ancient dues to the vicar of the parish, made at a time when men were beginning to look forward with much fear to the future, and when the Church, under the able administration of Laud, was setting itself in order, is

attested by the vicar, churchwardens, sidesmen, and those of the parishioners who had also signed the Terrier of the rectorial dues and possessions. And this presentment was not ill-grounded, for only fifteen years afterwards there comes another valuation of the vicarage, short and incisive, as if the valuers had for ever done away with Easter dues, Church duties, and such like, and had decided that the minister of the parish should have a fixed income in money.

In the survey of the Church lands, ordered by the last days of the reforming parliament in 1649, it is stated that the vicarage is worth £26 13s. 4d. a year, and that the then incumbent is Mr. Felix Fearne. And again, in the Presentment of Jurors, November 26th, 1650, we find that the "parish of Wookye consisted of about one hundred and thirty familys, and "is populous, where one Mr. Felix Fearne is the present preaching minister, the glebe and tithes belonging to the vicar "worth yearly almost twenty pounds."

It would have been most interesting had the Terrier on this later valuation given us the acreage of the glebe lands, as it would have been a clue by which we might be able to approximate to a date for the enclosure of the common fields of the parish. Certainly this happened either during the latter days of Elizabeth's reign, or during the early part of the 17th century. In a deed belonging to the Church lands of the year 1636, mention is made of the West-field as lately enclosed, and in one of the year 1601, in leasing some land, exception is made to a portion of land in Rushlands, as if at the time of the enclosure the leaseholder of an auster tenement had paid more than his share, in order that he might obtain the freehold for himself. At any rate, during this century the glebe of the vicars is increased by three acres and twelve poles of land at Henley, which were allotted to him from the East-field of Wookye.

During the 18th century little change seems to have taken place here.¹ In all probability the vicars were more or less non-

¹ In Hooper's Return, 6 Queen Anne (1708), the vicarage is returned as worth £24 15s. 8d.

resident, and the Vicarage-house was let out to others; and there are still people alive who have heard that the clerk's house used to be in the Back Lane. In 1729 a grant was made to the living by the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty of £200, and this was met by a grant from Dr. Roger's benefaction of a similar sum, and this £400 was expended, I believe, on fourteen acres of glebe land at Glastonbury Wick. In 1763, the Rev. Henry Arnold, D.D., vicar of the parish, gave £50, Mrs. Horner's Trustees £50, Mr. Pyncombe's Trustees £100, and Queen Anne's Bounty £200, and this was invested in the purchase of a house and two fields, but not until the beginning of the present century. When the Rev. J. S. Phillott came here in 1801, he intended to reside in the parish, but found that on account of the dilapidated state of the Vicarage-house it was then impossible; and therefore he made use of the last money grant made to the endowment fund to purchase an acre and a half, or thereabouts, of land, with a house upon it; the whole being known as Salvage's plot and home ground. The house he enlarged and made suitable for his residence, and probably took away the stones from the old house, and used them up in the building of the new. During these improvements and alterations, Mr. Phillott lived at Westbury, and when he came here he probably was the first vicar who had resided for more than seventy years. For some time during the incumbency of Dr. Arnold, Mr. Hollyer Allen, the rector of Rodney Stoke, used to act as curate here, and from the fact that he died, and was buried here October 4th, 1771, it would seem probable that he had lived here. Once more there was an enlargement of the Vicarage-house. In 1849, during the time of Mr. Burnett-Stuart, the house which Mr. Phillott had built was found to be too small, and several rooms were added, at a cost of £600, the half of which was borrowed from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners on the income of the benefice. In 1883, after the great tithes had fallen in, the Commissioners increased the income of the vicar by a yearly grant of £20.

Now it is evident, on looking over the above list of vicars, that the parish did not escape the ecclesiastical storms of the

16th and 17th centuries. The period of reform in Edward the VI.'s reign, and the troublous times under the Commonwealth, was felt here sufficiently strong to deprive the parish of the vicars. Alexander Berkeley, a monk from one of the monasteries which Henry had suppressed, certainly died away from his benefice, and was probably one of those clergy who would not accept the English Prayer Book, and was therefore expelled from his cure. Samuel Yerworth, after having endured the annoyance of two rival preachers within the Church for several years, was at last expelled in the autumn of 1655. And it is worth noticing also, that on the accession of Elizabeth, and on the return of Charles II., the clergy who were placed here had been previously expelled from other benefices. Christopher Webster, appointed vicar of Wookey in 1559, had formerly been vicar of Burnham; and John Gadd, appointed in 1661, had previously been rector of Charlynch. The following incidental notices of the vicars I have gleaned from various sources, but chiefly from the Episcopal Registers and the University Degree Books, and seem to complete the account of the history of our vicars. The gap between Richard de Haslaye and John Baker, and the uncertainty about John Compton, is caused by the loss of the Bishops' Registers for that period.

John Brent had been rector of Mattingho, now Martinhoe, in the diocese of Exeter, and in 1404 exchanged with John Baker.

John Wellyknow is called Capellanus. Perhaps he had some work also in the cathedral.

John Edwards was probably a native of the parish, his relations having settled down here many years previously. We find many Edwards's living at Yarley in the 16th century, and they seem to have had considerable influence in the parish. He resigned in 1506, receiving £1 6s. 8d. yearly by way of pension out of the revenues of the vicarage, and was certainly alive ten years later. His successor, John Castell, or as Hutton spells it, John Cayrell, was appointed by Lewis Pollard, sergeant-at-law. This man was probably the agent of John Hans, a non-resident sub-dean of Wells.

Richard Eryngton's (B.A., Nov. 16th, 1510) appointment was probably during the episcopate of John Clark, whose register only exists as far as the year 1534, and therefore I have been unable to give the date of his institution. His name occurs very often in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, and he seems to have acted almost as an agent for Henry's Commissioners. His name appears as vicar of Wookey, Communicarius of the Estates of the Cathedral, bailiff of Westmere, receiver of the Abbey of Bruton, vicar of Westbury, with the chapelry of Priddy annexed, priest of the new college within the Cathedral, and prebendary of Barton. There may have been two or more persons of that name however.

Alexander Berkeley, or de Barclay, as Anthony Wood calls him, was born at Berkeley, in Somerset, and educated at Oriel College, Oxford, under Thomas Cornish, bishop of Tenos, *in partibus*, and suffragan of Bath and Wells. For a time he was one of the priests of the College of St. Mary Ottery, his patron, bishop Cornish, obtaining that post for him. After the bishop's death, he entered a Benedictine monastery; and when the monasteries were dissolved, he became vicar of Much Baden, in Essex, and in 1546, vicar of Wookey. He died at Croydon in 1552, his will being proved June 10th, 1552. In his earlier days he was a poet, and afterwards wrote many lives of the saints. His works are, "The Figure of our Mother Holy Church, oppressed by the French King," "The Miseries or Miserable Lives of Courtiers," English Lives of S.S. Margaret, Katharine, Ethelreda, George," &c.; and he also translated into English, and in 1508 dedicated to Thomas Cornish "The Ship of Fools," a book which was of some notoriety at the time.

Henry Howe died in 1558. His name heads the list of burials in the parish register. When he was appointed and whether he was a reformer or not I cannot say. Bishop Barlow's register does not exist and the name does not occur in Bourne's. He witnesses Thomas Clerke's signature to his will.

Christopher Webster (B.A., Nov. 23rd, 1527), had been presented to the vicarage of Burnham March 9th, 1543, and we may safely say that he was a protestant.

Gilbert Harvey was appointed by the bishop, the presentation having lapsed to him, probably, through the great age and feeble health of Wm. Bowerman, the sub-dean. Dr. Bowerman died about this time, but when, I cannot exactly say. During the time of Gilbert Harvey there is an entry in the Register which would make us suppose that he was non-resident. 1571, April 12th, Christian Lane, daughter of Mr. Lane, curate, baptized. There were several families of this name in Wells about this time. A Mistress Alice Lane, wife of Mr. Peter Lane, is buried there in 1613.

Thomas Mydleham. I have not yet discovered anything about this vicar. From 1636-1661 a Mr. Purify Mydleham was vicar of Westbury. There must have been a family of this name in the neighbourhood for, in 1589, six years before his appointment here, Mr. Mydleham was married to Margery Collier in the Bishop's Chapel at Banwell. She died in 1624, and for his second wife he married in 1626, Mary Web, his next door neighbour, in the Church Barton, whom he had himself baptized in 1603.

Samuel Yerworth was born in Dorset about 1591, and went to Oxford at sixteen in 1607. He read Hebrew with some success and in 1650 published a book called "Introductio ad lingnam Ebraicam brevissima." He was expelled by the Puritans in 1655, and his place was filled by Mr. Felix Fearn. He was never instituted to the vicarage because Bishop Peirs retired from the Diocese in 1645 when the rebels visited the county and did not return till 1660.

John Gadd was ordained priest on June 9th, 1639, by bishop Piers, and was appointed rector of Charlinch May 9th, 1639. He was expelled thence by the Puritans and came here at the Restoration.

We now come to a serious gap in our list of vicars. I have not been able to find any institution to the benefice between the years 1673 and 1747. Mr. Thomas Stott died and was buried here December 7th, 1673, and Mr. Robert Kingston was appointed on the nomination of the king through lapse on July

14th, 1747. No mention of Wookey is to be found in the yearly returns for the diocese between these years in the Record Office, and I can give no explanation of the omission of the four names I have inserted. Thomas Ford actually signs in the Parish Vestry Minute book as vicar towards the end of his time, and therefore there need be no hesitation about accepting him. He is present at the Vestry Meetings from 1723-1746, so that our gap is diminished to the interval between the years 1673-1723. Now in 1683 there is an entry in the Registers of Burials at Westbury to the effect that a certain woman was buried on the affidavit made before Mr. Jones, minister of Wookey. I have no evidence to prove that he was vicar, but here is a statement that at present I cannot deny. There was also a Mr. Jones, vicar of some place, in the diocese of Bath and Wells, who was disqualified in 1688 by his refusal to take the oaths of allegiance to William and Mary. In the churchwardens' accounts from 1702-1730, the names of the other two clergymen occur with such frequency as to warrant us in saying that they were either curates, ministers, or vicars. The Rev. Edward Wooton preaches twice a year for the Second Poor Charity from 1704-1711, and receives each time a fee for his trouble. The Rev. William Hill appears as curate from 1713-1720 and also preaches for the second Poor. In the Presentments of the churchwardens to the Archdeacon of Wells in 1746, Mr. Robert Kingston appears as the curate and sequestrator. This last title may give us a clue to our difficulty, but as the chancel was very much out of repair this may only refer to the sub-deanery estates.

The Rev. Morgan Jones, who is mentioned in the Westbury Register as minister here, may be the same as the man who took his degree from S. John's College, Oxford, 1673, and became Fellow of Jesus and Master of Arts, July 4th, 1676.

Robert Kingston, Lincoln College, Oxford, B.A., Feb. 25th, 1724, M.A., June 22nd, 1728, was ordained deacon, June 8th, 1729, and for nearly twenty years was an assistant curate of St. Cuthbert's Church, Wells. He probably lived in Wells and his family rose to some distinction there. He was buried in

St. Cuthbert's Church, and in the N.E. aisle there is a tablet to his memory with this inscription: "H.S.E. Robertus Kingston, A.M. "hujusce ecclesiæ vicariis per videnos annos Adjutor, ecclesiæ "parochialis de Woky non ita pridem ipse factus Vicarius. "Pastor erat et fidelis et bonus, amicus certus, vir integer, uxori, "liberis, famulis, familiaribus, pauperibus denique et bonis "omnibus charus vixit, deflendus obiit IV. Aug., 1748 annum "ageus XLIII."

Henry Arnold, of Balliol College, Oxfrd, B.A., Oct. 15th, 1742, 1742, M.A., July 4th, 1745, B.D. and D.D., April 21st, 1761, was probably non-resident. His assistant curate was for some time the Rev. Hollyer Allen, rector of Rodney Stoke, who died here and was buried, Oct. 4th, 1771.

William Keate was also non-resident. The Rev. John Pearse was his curate for some years.

Evan Davies was, in addition to being vicar here, rector of Ilchester and vicar of Pilton. He died and was buried at Pilton, Jan. 14th, 1812, aged 56.

Charles Moss was the son of Charles Moss, the then bishop of Bath and Wells. He was educated at Christchurch, Oxford, and took his degree in 1783, M.A., 1786 and D.D., 1797. He was appointed sub-dean of Wells and rector of Wookey within a year after his appointment to this vicarage. In 1807 he was made bishop of Oxford, and died 1812.

John Stevens Phillott was the eldest son of the Rev. James Phillott, rector of Bath. He was educated at Balliol College, Oxford, and took his degree June 14th, 1797. Immediately afterwards he was ordained on a title his father had given to the Abbey-church at Bath. He held no other preferment but this vicarage.

Edward Sneyd was of Christ's College, Cambridge, B.A., 1826, M.A., 1830; minor canon of Durham, 1831; vicar of St. Margaret's, Durham, 1834; vicar of Wookey, 1839; rector of Witton Gilbert, 1839; vicar of St. Oswald's, Durham, 1848-1862. Died August 3rd, 1866, aged 71. Mr. Sneyd only held

Wookey from January to November, 1839. His wife died here, and owing to the Tithe Commutation arrangements he was not very happy in his relations with the parishioners.

William Thorpe of Merton College, Oxford, took his degree in 1824. He became vicar of Chattisham, Suffolk, 1830, vicar of Wookey, 1839, rector of Weeley, Colchester, 1849 and died 1875.

Theodosius Burnett-Stuart of Queen's College, Cambridge, took his degree as 13th wrangler, 1827, and was afterwards elected fellow and dean of his college. He became vicar of Northaller-ton in 1840, and vicar of Wookey by exchange in 1849. He died in 1868.

Morton Drummend of Caius College, Cambridge, took his degree in 1856 and M.A., 1860. He was ordained to the curacy of Castle Cary, 1858. In 1861 he was appointed vicar of Exmoor, in 1868 vicar of Wookey, and in 1879 rector of Wanstead.

In the Register mention is made of three persons whose names do not appear in the above list.

In 1571 there is an entry that on April 12th Christian Lane, daughter of Mr. Lane, Curate, was baptized.

On January 8th, 163 $\frac{5}{8}$, Mr. Anthonie Buxton, a minister, was buried. He was probably a brother of Mr. Robert Buxton and received the legacy of John Browning for preaching fifteen sermons.

On May 23rd, 1650, John, son of Mr. Felix Fearne, minister, and Bridgett, his wife, was baptized. This puritan we know about from the report of the Commonwealth Commissioners.

CHAPTER VI.

THE PARISH REGISTERS, CHURCHWARDENS, CLERKS
AND SEXTONS.

WE are very fortunate in having such old and perfect Registers. They have been well kept, well bound, and on the whole are remarkably clean. The register of burials begins with the name of Mr. Henry Howe, vicar of the parish, who died in the year 1558, and the register of births, burials, and marriages have been regularly kept from 1565. Previous to the year 1598 the entries were made on loose pieces of parchment or paper, but in that year the churchwardens, John Turner and John Browning bought 42 leaves of parchment at a cost of 8s. 10d. and had all the entries on the loose papers copied on them. This lasted as the register book till the year 1639 when Edward Hippisley and Robert Buxton, churchwardens, bought 20 leaves more at a cost of 3s. In 1669, 18 leaves more were added by Edward Hobbs and Hugh Merifield at a cost of 4s. 6d. In 1702, 54 more leaves were added by John Stott and Thomas Churchous and the whole were bound at a cost of 10s. 8d. In 1767 40 leaves more were added by Thomas Bailey and Joseph Elvard, and the whole were rebound by Mr. Carr, of Wells, for 17s.

Such is the old register bringing down the entries of marriages to 1758, and of baptisms and burials to 1812. From these dates the modern books begin, there being three volumes of marriage registers, viz. 1754-1814; 1814-1837; 1837 to the present time; and one for burials and two for baptisms. The writing is all by the same hand from 1565 to 1598. Then Mr. Mydleham seems to have kept them himself almost to the time of his death in 1647. The handwriting of Stephen Weare, the celebrated parish clerk, is then visible, though Mr. Samuel Yerworth sometimes makes the entries himself until 1655. From this time until his death in 1680, Stephen Weare, who had been sworn in as registry for the

parish, keeps the books and makes the entries. To him succeeded John Turner, and from about the end of the 17th century down to the present time the entries were made either by the vicar for the time or somebody acting for him. Thomas Ford countersigns several leaves about 1730, and Wm. Keate in 1781.

There are several interesting pieces of information to be found in this old register.

1573. At this time baysalt was sold 3s. 4d. 1e bush. : and wheat for 4s. 1e bushell in Wells market.

In 1597, we read that "at this time in Wells market, wheat was sold for 16s. the bushel, beanes at 13s. the bushell, barley at 10s. the bushell, barley malt at 10s. the bushell, dredg at 6s. 8d. the bushell, oates at 5s. 4d., barley graynes for hogges at 8d. the bushell, and bay salt at 7s. 6d.

1609. Mr. Anthony Godwyn of this parish died at London, the 22nd of November, and was buried in Clement Danes Church without Temple Bar, the 23rd of November, and a funeral sermon was preached for him by Mr. Allen in Wookey Church, 14th December.

Mr. A. Godwyn held the lease of the Rectory now called Mellifont Abbey.

In 1612. "About this time Hembury Wood was sold and cutte."

1614. This Lent white herins were sold 2 a penny and red herins 5 for 2^d. and eggs two for a penny or five for two pence.

In 1614. "Robert Buxton was buried the 31st of March. He gave to the poor of the parish of Wokey X^{li}, to every one of the almesfolkes of Wells vi^d a year and to divers other several poor people worthye legacies.

1622. Hannah, the wife of John Crooker and daughter unto Thomas Mydleham, vicar of this parish, departed this life on Monday morning, the 22nd of September, and was buried the 24th of the same September, being that day of the moneth, 1598, on which she was baptized.

We can surely forgive the poor old vicar the length of this entry. Twenty-five years afterwards they laid him in the same grave. Is it not with us unto this day?

1624. John Browning aged about 25 years, died March 21st, who died as he lived very honestly and godly. He gave to the poor of the parish £5 and for certain preachers that should preach 15 sermons in the church of Woky £5 more, and for to be spent at his burial £10. He was buried March 24th.

1635. Mr. Anthonie Buxton, a minster, was buried January 8th.

1653, Oct. 9. Collected at Wookey, in the county of Somerset, for the town of Marlborough, in the county of Wilts, who had great loss by fire, towards the relief of the poor there, and the rebuilding of the town, at two several collections, 27s. 6d. and 12s., making in all 39s. 6d. Samuel Yerworth, vicar.

In 1655, Mr. Samuel Yerworth was expelled by the authorities of the Commonwealth, but ere he departed he is careful to mention the fact. Here ends the Weddings that were before the new act in force, Sept. 29th, 1655. Noted by me, Samuel Yerworth, vicar, April 22nd, 1655.

1656. January 6th. Baptized John, son of Richard and Jane Turner of Ripple. The godfathers and grandmothers were three hundred years of age.

The following account of Thomas Edwarde and his will also appears among the burials for the year 1596. He was the son of Anthony and Margaret Edwarde of Henton, Thomas Edwarde, the son of Margaret Edwarde of Yardly, widow, being of the age of nineteen years and nine months, departed this life July 28th, in the year next above written and was buried the 29th of the same month, in the parish church of Woky. This Thomas Edwarde in his lifetime was a virtuous young man, beloved of the most honest persons and inhabitants within the parish of Woky, and such a one as right well affect the poor, as by the last will and almost the last word that he spake it may and doth appear, the tenor of whose will is as followeth.

July 27th, 1596. Thomas Edwarde of Woky in the county of Somerset, husbandman, being perfect of mind and memory did make his last will noncupative in manner and form following viz: he gave three pounds of current English money to the poor of the parish of Woky aforesaid, to be put out yearly from time to time

for the relief and benefit of the poor there for ever at the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel by two of his next of kin, the vicar of the same parish, and the two churchwardens for the time being, every of their successors taking sufficient security as well for the principle as the increase, which increase he willed to be distributed by the aforesaid persons and their successors to the poor according to their discretion upon the feast of the Saint yearly.

Item, he gave also to the church and parish of Woky aforesaid 3s. 4d., and to the church of Wedmore 2s., and to the poor of the almshouses of Wells 2s. Witness thereunto John Edward, brother of the said Thomas Edward. To this will was annexed and underwritten an administration granted by the right worshipful Mr. James Bysse, doctor of divinity, sub-dean of the cathedral church of St. Andrew in Wells, and ordinary of the parish of Woky, aforesaid, unto Margaret Edward, mother of the said Thomas Edward, and to John Edward, brother of the said Thomas. Dated at Wells, August 9th, 1596.

In 1680, we read that Stephen Weare, who was a long time clerke of this parish and had while he lived seven wives successive, was buried May the 20th.

In 1678, we find the first notice of that act of parliament which was passed to promote the agricultural interest of the kingdom. We then read such entries as the following:—Alice, the wife of Thomas Churchouse, was buried the 28th of October in sheep's wool only.

1703, Thomas Randall was buried the 26th of November, and the same night was a mighty hurriance of wind which rent and spoiled many dwellings together with outhouses, and threw down innumerable multitude of trees and drove many ships out of the sea into the meadows by reason of the very great tempest at night.

This was the storm which threw down the chimney at the palace and caused the death of Bishop Kidder as he lay in bed.

Formerly the only collections made in parish churches, except those for the poor at the celebration of the Holy Communion,

were authorised by Royal brief. There is a list of the collections made in Wookey Church under this authority, and the cause for which the money was collected. It is as follows, omitting the amount of loss :—

		s.	d.
1703.	Twyford, loss by fire Collected	1	7½
	Spittlefield, loss by fire „	1	2½
	William Odell, of St. Giles'-in-the-Fields, loss by fire „	3	2¼
	John Wapping, in County of Middlesex „	3	6¾
	Great Massingham, loss by fire „	1	6
	William Brompton, loss by fire „	1	10½
	Francis Dorset, loss by fire „	1	6
1708.	Great Yarmouth, loss by fire, Aug. 1st „	0	10
	Bewdley, loss by fire, Aug. 22nd „	1	5
	Altonbury-cum-Weston, in County of Huntingdon, loss by fire, Oct. 3rd „	0	7¾
1709.	Lisburne, in Ireland, loss by fire... .. „	1	3½
	Strand, loss by fire „	0	11½
	Branchley Church, damaged „	2	0½
	At y ^e head of y ^e Cannon Gate at Edinburgh, in North Brittan, loss by fire. Amount illegible.		
	Harlowe, in the County of Essex, loss by fire ..	1	1
	St. Mary Redcliffe Church, in Bristol, damaged ..	0	9
1710.	Llanvilling Church, damaged „	0	3
	A brieve for y ^e relief, subsistence, and settlement of the poor distressed palatines „	2	10
	Protestant Church of Mittau, in Courland „	0	9½
	Market Rayson, loss by fire „	0	9½
	Stoak, in the County of Suffolk „	0	8¼
	The Parish Church of Aston-super-Mercy, in y ^e County of Chester „	1	0
	The ancient borrough and towne of Stockton-upon-Tees, in the County of Durham, Stockton Church „	0	9½
	Chalfont St. Peter's Church, in the County of Buckingham „	1	9¼
	Rotherhith Wall, in the County of Surrey, loss by fire „	0	9
	Northfleet and Durant, loss by fire „	0	8
	Twyford, in the Countie of Barks, loss by fire ..	1	1
	St. Mary Rotherhith Church, in the Countie of Surry „	0	9
	Ide, in Devon, loss by fire... .. „	0	4
	Ensham, in the County of Oxon, loss by fire ..	0	4
1712.	St. Mary's Church, in Colchester, demolished in the Civil War „	2	1

1713.	The town of Rudgley, in County of Stafford	„	0	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
	The steeple of the Parish Church of Adderley	„	0	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Colverton Church, in the County of Leicester	„	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Witheridge and Chilton, loss by fire	.. „	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Richard Salter, “of our City of London”	„	0	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Quatford Church, in County of Sallop	... „	0	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
	St. Mary's Church Devon	... „	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
	The Church of Burton-upon-Trent, in the County of Stafford „	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Southwell Church, in the County of Nottingham, damaged „	1	8
	Warmingham Church, in County of Chester, damaged „	0	7
	William Adams, of Heathill, in the County of Stafford „	0	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
1715.	Shipwash Church, in the County of Devon, damaged „	1	3
	Woodham Ferry's Church, in the County of Essex, damaged „	0	3
	St. John Baptist Church, in Southover, in the County of Sussex „	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
	All Saints' Church, in the borough of Derby, damaged „	0	5
	Leighton Church, in the County of Salop	... „	0	4
	Botisham, in the County of Cambridge, loss by fire „	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$

The earlier collections do not appear to have been made in church, but rather from house to house; but afterwards the fact that the sum had been collected in the parish church of Wookey is always stated. There are four or five other entries at the top or bottom of a page, but the names are quite illegible.

CHURCHWARDENS OF WOOCKEY.

1562. William Drewe	John Edwards
1598. John Turner	John Browning, the elder
1602. Mr. Anthony Godwin	Bartholomew Castle
1613. David Trym	John Smyth also Hooper
1618. John Chappell	Nicholas Marshfield
1629. David Trym	John Chappell
1634. Thomas Churchouse	Richard Abowen
1633. John Hooper als Smyth	John Ffussell
1639. Edward Hippisley	Robert Buxton
1644. Richard Sage	Thomas Hotkins
1646. John Heliar	Edward Barnard
1650. Thomas Churchouse	Richard Westwood
1659. Thomas Hobbe	Hugh Merihfield
1670. John Smith	John Stott
1689. Thomas Corpe	Hugh Merifield
1696. William Clarke	William Chappell
1699. Richard Ballar	Richard Millard
1700. John Tutten	John Luffe
1701. Thomas Barnard	Thomas Watts
1702. John Stott	Thomas Churchouse
1703. John Browning	John Randall
1704. John Barnard	George Brookman
1705. George Masters	David Cooke
1706. James Tibbs	John Turner, of Bleadney
1707. John Cooke	William Browne
1708. Thomas Tibbs	Stephen Weare
1709. William Gale	William Wills
1710. John Rooe	Thomas Gale
1711. Richard Clarke	John Elford, for Mr. Muttlebury
1712. John Poole	John Churchouse
1713. Richard Browning	John Plumer
1714. David Cooke	John Luffe
1715. Richard Clarke	Joseph French
1716. John Barnard	William Glover
1717. Do.	John Watts
1718. William Chappell	George Allford
1719. Thomas Strode	Thomas Stott, or Mr. Bayley

1720. Thomas Peirs	Thomas Gale
1721. Thomas Peirs	Thomas Gale
1722. William Gale	Thomas Lyde
1723. Do.	Do.
1724. Richard Clarke	John Elford
1725. John Barnard	William Gale
1726. George Allford	John Watts
1727. James Gale	Do.
1728. Do.	James Tibbs
1729. Do.	Do.
1730. Francis Sheppard	Robert Day
1731. Francis Sheppard or John Luff	Charles Stott
1732. Thomas Strode	Joseph Middleham
1733. John Barnard	Thomas Stott
1734. George Cooke	George Baker
1735. Thomas Baily	James Stott
1736. Thomas Strode	William Cook
1737. Do.	Do.
1738. John Willcox	Nathaniel Cook
1739. William Gale	Joseph Elvard
1740. Do.	Do.
1741. Edward Band	John Butt
1742. Do.	Do.
1743. Samuel Were	John Butten
1744. William Hodges	Do.
1745. William Hill	Isaac Stott
1746. John Salmon	Do.
1747. Edmund Wilkins	Edmund Cozens
1748. Thomas Strode	Thomas Bailey
1749. Do.	Do.
1750. Charles Stott	Charles Savage
1751. Thomas Baker	John Hill
1752. Do.	Do.
1753. William Gale	John Stott
1754. William Ekins Peirs	John Butten
1755. Do.	Do.
1756. William Hughes	Do.
1757. Do.	Do.
1758. William Hill	John Stott
1759. Do.	Do.
1760. John Butten	George Cook
1761. Do.	Do.
1762. William Cooke	James Stott

1763. William Cooke	James Stott
1764. Do.	Do.
1765. Thomas Bailey	Joseph Elvard
1766. Do.	Do.
1767. Abraham Goater	Thomas Stott
1768. Do.	Do.
1769. Henry Mackinnen	Thomas Ruddick
1770. Do.	Do.
1771. Edward Band	Nicholas Goddard
1772. Do.	Do.
1773. Do.	Do.
1774. Thomas Baker	James Stott
1775. John Salmon	John Butten
1776. Do.	Do.
1777. Do.	Do.
1778. Thomas Baker	James Stott
1779. John Butten	John Salmon
1780. John Salmon	Do.
1781. John Meadens	John Clark
1782. Do.	John Band
1783. Do.	Do.
1784. John Salmon	James Weare
1785. Do.	Isaac Stott, Junr.
1786. Do.	Do.
1787. Do.	Do.
1788. Do.	Do.
1789. Do.	Do.
1790. Do.	Do.
1791. Do.	Do.
1792. Do.	Do.
1793. Do.	Do.
1794. Do.	Do.
1795. Thomas Barnard	Thomas Weare
1796. Do.	Do.
1797. Isaac Stott	Do.
1798. John Hill	Do.
1799. John Band	Do.
1800. Do.	Do.
1801. Do.	Do.
1802. Do.	Do.
1803. Do.	Do.
1804. Do.	Do.
1805. George Yeap	Do.

1806. John Pitney	Thomas Weare
1807. Do.	Do.
1808. Do.	Do.
1809. Do.	Do.
1810. Do.	Do.
1811. Do.	Do.
1812. Do.	Do.
1813. Do.	Do.
1814. William Stott	John Weare
1815. Do.	Do.
1816. John Weare	William Stott
1817. John Weare	Do.
1818. Do.	Do.
1819. Do.	Do.
1820. Do.	Do.
1821. Do.	Do.
1823. Do.	Do.
1824. Do.	Do.
1825. Do.	Do.
1826. Do.	Do.
1827. Do.	George Barnard
1828. Do.	Do.
1829. Do.	Do.
1830. William Pitney	Richard Clarke
1831. Do.	Do.
1832. Do.	Do.
1833. Do.	Do.
1834. Do.	Do.
1835. Do.	Do.
1836. Do.	Do.
1837. Do.	Do.
1838. Do.	Do.
1839. Do.	Do.
1840. Do.	Do.
1841. Do.	Do.
1842. Do.	Do.
1843. Do.	Do.
1844. Do.	Do.
1845. Do.	Do.
1846. Do.	Do.
1847. Do.	Do.
1848. Edward Hill	George Salmon
1849. James Hill	Do.

1850. James Hill	George Salmon
1851. Do.	Do.
1852. Do.	Do.
1853. Do.	Do.
1854. Do.	Do.
1855. William Caseley	John Hill
1856. Do.	George Salmon
1857. Do.	Do.
1858. Do.	Do.
1859. Do.	Do.
1860. George Salmon	William Caseley
1861. Mr. Robert Salmon	Do.
1862. Do.	Do.
1863. Do.	Do.
1864. Mr. Wm. S. Hill, of Oare	Do.
1865. Do.	Do.
1866. Do.	Do.
1867. Do.	William Vincent
1868. Do.	Do.
1869. Do.	Do.
1870. Do.	Do.
1871. Do.	Do.
1872. Do.	Do,
1873. Do.	Do.
1874. Do.	Do.
1875. Do.	Do.
1876. William Caseley	Do.
1877. Do.	Do.
1878. Do.	Do.
1879. Augustus Burnett-Stuart	Do.
1880. Do.	Do.
1881. Do.	Do.
1882. Do.	Do.
1883. Do.	Do.
1884. Do.	Robert Welch
1885. Do.	Do.

THE PARISH CLERKS.

I have not got a very perfect list of the Clerks and Sextons because the Churchwarden's accounts are not always kept in an equally diffusive manner. Sometimes payment is made to a man under his name, and sometimes under his office, as clerk or sexton, and therefore considerable difficulty arises in making out the order of succession.

The parish clerks are as follows :—

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| 1. Thomas Fry | died | March 17th, 1571. |
| 2. Thomas Davys | buried | September 28th, 1577. |
| 3. Robert Beeny | „ | February 22nd, 1618. |
| 4. Richard Baker | „ | July 25th, 1631. |
| 5. Stephen Weare | „ | May 20th, 1680. |
| 6. Thomas Watts | „ | September 25th, 1683. |
| 7. Thomas Light | „ | |
| 8. William Mulford | „ | December 5th, 1731. |
| 9. Anthony Turner | „ | March 24th, 1763. |
| 10. Abraham Boulting | „ | October 21st, 1764. |
| 11. William Boulting | „ | July 18th, 1792. |
| 12. Thomas Clements | „ | June 30th, 1829. |
| 13. Edward Clements | „ | June 11th, 1834. |
| 14. John Monk | „ | August 9th, 1851. |
| 15. George Dennis. | | |

That the men whose names are given above were parish clerks is generally stated in the entry of their burial. I have no proof for Thomas Light, except his signature as a witness on a deed of the year 1697. The following are the seven wives of Stephen Weare :—

1. Elizabeth Colbourne, married May 8th, 1626.
2. Hannah Salmon, married November 18th, 1630; died August 31st, 1648.
3. Katheren died November 28th, 1652.
4. Gartred Blinman, married April 14th, 1653; died August 4th, 1668.

5. Jane Collier, of Croscombe, married December 20th, 1668; died November 21st, 1571.
 6. Mary Lane, of Priddy, married February 26th, 1672; died December 6th, 1677.
 7. Joan Ford, of Langford, married February 7th, 1678.
-

THE SEXTONS.

The sextons are yet more difficult to find. My list is as follows:—

William Denbeigh, buried February 11th, 1704.
 Nicolas Boulting ,, August 2nd, 1705.
 Charles Boulting ,, April 19th, 1730.
 John Day, senior ,, Feb. 11th, 1753.
 John Day, junior ,, December 14th, 1782.
 James Day, died January 10th, 1853, sexton for 42 years.
 Joseph Day, died December 23rd, 1858, sexton for 5 years.
 Samuel Robins, died 1868.
 John Adlam, retired, 1872.
 Robert Masters.



Terra Episcopi	Messuagium Vicarii de Woky		
Quædam venella ex opposito Messuagii d			
	Terra Prioris Sancti Johannis Baptistæ de Welles	The Church Barton	Strecches tenement
Regia Via sive Via de Woky			
Mansio Rectoris de Woky	Ecclesia de Woky		

A rough chart of a portion of Wookey in 1430,
auster tenement given as an endowment

Terra

Episcopi

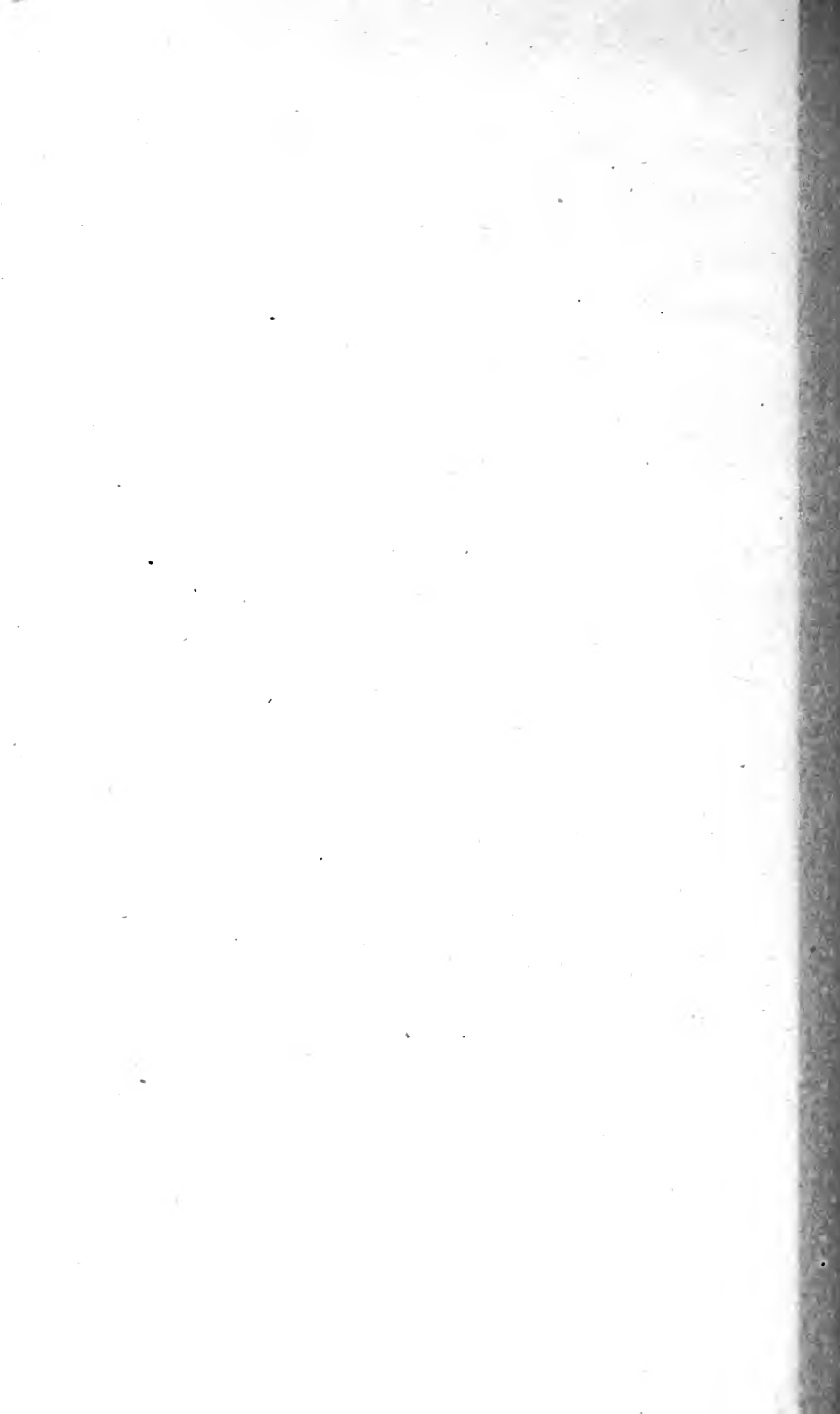
antiquo vocati la Vikersplace

Terra
Episcopi

Terra Episcopi

Jefferies' Bristol.

showing the path to the Vicarage and the small
the church some time before 1389.



CHAPTER VII.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND PAROCHIAL ENDOWMENTS.

THE Church endowments, as far as we have any record concerning them, began with the house and plot of land on the eastern half of the present Church Barton. When this was given as a source of income for the Church expenses, I cannot say. But in 1389 we find John Wareyn de Welleslegh, *canonicus ecclesie cathedralis Wellensis*, and John Hillary sending greeting to all the faithful, and informing them that they had granted to John Bek, of Woky, and Alice, his wife, that tenement with one fardell of land which is called Stretches-tenement, on a lease for their lives, at a yearly rent of 8s., to be paid quarterly. This tenement is then said to have been lately in the tenure of John Compton, "chaplain." Now from this I should say that these two were trustees on behalf of the Church, but what other connection they had with the parish I cannot say. Certainly neither were rectors of the place. Who Johannes Compton, *capellanus perpetuus*, was, I do not know, but he may have been a vicar here. However, in one of the hallmotes of 1392, John Bek and William Smith are admitted to two of the Church cottages; and this agrees with the second lease to John Bek. Three years afterwards the same property is leased to John Bek, and Edith, his wife. Perhaps Alice had died in the meantime, and John Bek wished to have the lease renewed for the sake of safety. The next deed is a grant by John Carter, *alias* Morekoc, of Chewton, carpenter, to Richard Bokkyng, burgher, of Wells, and Alicia, his wife, of the western portion of the present Church Barton. It is described as being between the cottage and garden of John Bek on the east, and the house of the Prior of the hospital of St. John the Baptist, in Wells, on the west, having the high

road on the south, and a certain lane on the north, which ran in front of the house called La Vickersplace. It was 37 feet wide and 141 feet long, from road to lane. Not a month afterwards Richard Bokkyng sells it to John Spray, *alias* Hankyns, of Woky. These are dated 7 Henry V. = 1420. We then lose sight of it until the seventeenth year of Henry VII. = 1502, when a certain William Sawyer grants it to twelve trustees, and from that date we can trace its history. But with regard to the former house and its fardell of land, we find in 1488 a Thomas Brown, of Yenell,¹ husbandman, granting the house and garden to John Selcok on a lease of 99 years, who pays him annually 3s. 4d. as rent; and as no mention is made of the fardell of land, I suppose it had gone to endow some one or something else. Then in 1492 Thomas Browne, son and heir of Richard Browne, of Yenell, grants to five trustees all his lands and hereditaments in the parish of Wookey, without specifying what they were. From this time, then, we can trace the history of this piece of land. The trustees evidently buy up or get rid of John Selcock, for in the same year they grant it to John Turner, of Woky, and Christine, his wife, on a lease for life, paying on the festival of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist one red rose. Probably the fine that Turner paid, in order to get the place on such easy terms, was made use of to settle John Selcock's claims.

In 1583 we find two important changes in the indenture of the lease of this last piece of land. First, there appears to have been set up within the narrow strip, in addition to the older one to the north, a house, which is now called Church-house. For when leasing this other house, with its small plot of ground, the right is reserved of ingress, egress and regress through the ground to the Church-house. And, secondly, we find for the first time any hint about the allotment of the moors. For the house is leased out, with its garden and the common thereunto belonging. From this time there is much difficulty in tracing the distinct history of the two plots of land and their houses. But previous to the year 1689 we find that the trustees

¹ Where Yenell is I do not know.

let, with their former possessions, portions of land in the West-field, in the North-field, and in the East-field, and very shortly afterwards these appear as fields in Rushlands, Greenswaybush and Henley, and probably are the common lands allotted to the tenements, being mentioned in 1583, and now in 1689 having distinct names. The allotments on Knowle-moor were granted to the Church trustees as possessors of auster tenements, by the Commissioners for the enclosure in 1786. There were clearly, then, two enclosures of the moors, one probably during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, or James I., when the fields at Henley, Greenswaybush and Rushlands were given us, and the other in George III.'s reign, when the Knowle-fields were added. I presume there was some exchange of lands between the rectors and the Church trustees, because we have no land at Greenswaybush now, but have some land at Stroud, which was formerly rectorial glebe, and the rectors had no land at Greenswaybush, but now have. When this exchange took place I cannot say.

Our next endowment was rather for the benefit of agriculture than for the use of the Church. It is the bequest made by the rector, who was sub-dean, the Rev. William Boureman, for the increase of ploughs and better maintenance of tillage. Our deed is dated October 4th, 1561. He gave £20 "from his love for the public interest of the people of Wookey," into the hands of Christopher Webster, vicar, William Drewe and John Edwardes, churchwardens, and Henry Clarke, Richard Godwyn, John Chapell, John Turner, Thomas Churchehouse, John Bulting, William Beny, John Wilcockes, Nicholas Boulting, William Toker and Robert Buxton in trust as a continual stock, to be delivered to four honest men of the parish who had land to till, for their use for two whole years. The accounts were to be audited on the Sunday next after the Feast of St. Michael, in the Church-house of Wookey. Before receiving the loan they were to find sureties, and no one was to receive it twice within a space of four years from the end of his first tenure, and the men are to be chosen fairly from all districts of the parish. How long this charity continued I have no means of finding out, but in 1776 it is

scheduled in the Donation Act Paper as lost, and probably it did not survive the troubles of the 17th century.

We next come to the legacy of Joan Browning, to the Second Poor.¹ Joan Browning, a widow lady of Yarley, left £50 for the poor of Wookey, and our first deed bears date 23rd September, 23 Charles I. = 1647-8. David Trym, John Chapell, John Browning, Senr., R. Lyde, J. Corpe, and R. Hippisley are the first trustees. They declare that they have purchased the land of John Stock, of Yarley, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of arable land at Oare for the poor of Wookey. Stock's land consisted of $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres, lying below the Yeo at Yardley, $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres at Monkford, $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres at Hornsmead, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres in the common field, called Knowlefield.

The next legacy is that which Thomas Churchhouse, of Henton, left by his will, May 11th, 1661, in which he charged his lands at Aishwick with a yearly payment of 10s. to the second poor of Wookey.

We then come to W. Council's gift of £20 to the second poor, and £10 the interest of which is to be given to the vicar for preaching two sermons a year when the people came to receive the charity.

W. Council died July 11th, 1715, and in 1731 the people of Wookey subscribed £72, and with that money, and Council's £30, the messuage, orchard and pasture land, called Webb's Cribb, and Webb's was purchased from William Chappell, of Wookey, yeoman, together with Gully-house and Goarway-fields, the first set of trustees being Thomas Strode, John Luffe, Junr., John Watts, Senr., and John Watts, Junr., Richard Clarke, George Cooke and John Poole.

In 1778, Dr. Arnold, vicar of Wookey, who died September 6th of that year, left by will £10 for the second poor, and this seems to have been immediately distributed, and not invested in land.

In 1798 Mrs. Ann Elvard, who was buried October 28th, left by will £100, the interest of which was to be distributed in bread to the poor of the parish, and in 1822 the Rev. T. B.

¹ i.e. the grade next above recognised paupers.

Salmon, who died June 20th of that year, left £20 more for the same purpose. The interest of this £120 is now yearly distributed, according to the terms of the Charity.

The following catalogue of deeds in the Parish Chests illustrates the foregoing statements :—

1. Lease of land to John and Alice Bek, by John Warreyn de Welleslegh, and John Hillary, Strecchestenement. Die Mercurii in festo S. Michaelis. 13th Rich. II.
2. Lease of land to John and Edith Bek by above. Die Martis proxime post festum S. Mariæ Magdalenæ. 16th Rich. II. Two copies.
3. John Carter, *alias* Morekoc, carpenter, grant of house and garden in Wookey to Richard Bokkyng, burgher of Wells, and Alice, his wife, January 14th, the 7th of Henry V.
4. Richard Bokkyng grants his cottage to John Spray, *alias* Hankyns, of Wookey. Feb. 10th, 7th of Henry V.
5. John Hillary, Capellanus, de Schirborn, leases the house that John Bek had, to John Schapel, and Isabella, his wife. Sunday before Michaelmas. 11th of Henry VI.
6. John Hillary de Schirborn, in Com. Som. capellanus, leases the cottage which Bek had, to John Colyer, and Joanna, his wife, and John, their son, October 1st. 18th Edward IV. Two copies.
7. Thomas Brown de Yenell, in Com. Som., husbandman, grants to John Selcock, of Wells, his house in Wookey, April 8th. 3rd of Henry VII. Two copies.
8. Thomas Brown de Yenell, son and heir of Richard Brown, grants to John Edward, vicar of Wookey, John Chapell, William Wylkokke, Thomas Clarke, farmer, and Thomas Clarke, his son, all his lands, tenements, and reversions in Wookey. May 8th. 7th Henry VII.
9. Thomas Browne de Yenell grants to above trustees all his claims and future title and inheritance in Wokey. May 12th. 7th Henry VII.

10. John Edwarde and other trustees lease a cottage to John Turner, of Wookey, and Christina, his wife, and Alicia,
11. Wm. Sawyer grants to John Edwarde, John Chappell, Walter Edwarde, Wm. Wilcok, John Castel, of Fenny Castel, John Smyth de Yardeley, Richard Churchouse, Thomas Edwarde, Thos. Turner de Bledeney, Wm. Browning de Bledeney, and Thos. Clerke, his cottage, between John Turner's and the house of the Prior of S. John Baptist Hospital. S. Katharine's Day. 17th Henry VII.
12. Wm. Willys or Sawyer makes John Cupper and Nicholas Plumley, his lawful attornies, to give seisin of above cottage in Woky. Date same as 11.
13. Wm. Wyllys, mason, releases above trustees (ii) from all claims by him or his relations on his cottage in Wokey. Witnesses: John Rodeney, miles, Edmund Mille, John Powlet, armiger, John Standewyke, Walter Vincent, and above attornies. December 1st. 17th Henry VII.
14. John Wyllys or Sawyer, son of W. Willys, releases trustees from all claims he may have on the cottage. December 12th. 17th Henry VII. Witnessed by Nicholas Trappe, tunc Magister de Welles, Richard Burnell, John Standerwyke, John Tupper and Thomas Squery.
15. Richard Eryngton, vicar, Thomas Clerke, armiger, William Chapell, Walter Edward, Thomas Clerke, junior, William Hancock, and William Castell, lease on their lives to Richard Fysshe, Alice, his wife, and Alice, his daughter, the cottage which John Turner lately held. September 8th. 22nd Henry VIII. Witnessed by Robert Tupper, Walter Castel, John Fysshe and John Turner.
16. William Castle, sole surviving trustee, grants cottage (15) to new trustees, *i.e.* Christopher Webster, vicar, Richard Godwyn, William Drew, John Chapell, senior, John Wylcoxse, Thomas Churchouse, John Bowlting, William Hooper or Smythe, William Tucker, and John Turner. Wookey, October 15th. 1st Elizabeth. Two copies.

17. Above trustees lease cottage (15) for three lives to Thomas Chapman, Isabella Gardener, whom he is going to marry, and their son if they have one. January 20th. 2nd Elizabeth. Two copies.
18. William Bowerman, or Boureman, clerk, parson of Wookey, and Christopher Webster, vicar, grant to John Edwarde, William Drewe, Henry Clarke, Richard Godwyn, John Chapell, John Turner, T. Churchouse, J. Bulting, William Beeny, J. Wilcockes, Nicholas Boulting, W. Toker, and Robert Bulton, £20 to be lent out to farmers for purchase of ploughs. October 4th. 4th Elizabeth.
19. T. Churchouse and William Tucker grant a cottage to Thomas Chapman, on his own life, and that of Isabel and John Chapman, his wife and son. November 25th. Elizabeth 25. On the outside under date, July 2nd, 1601.—*Premissa infra scripta concedunt Edith Webb, uxor Ricardi Webb et Ricardus Webb filius eorum Ricardi et Edithæ, except 111 yards lying in Rushlands.*
20. T. Churchouse and William Tucker, lease to John Fish, junior, and Alys Tanner, his future wife, the cottage (11), allowing ingress and egress to the church house. March 25th. 25th Elizabeth.
21. T. Churchouse and William Tucker grant cottage (20) to new trustees, Anthony Godwyn, John Kelway, John Barnard, J. Turner, J. Cullock, E. Beeny, W. Turner, J. Chapell, J. Willcox, Anthony Edward, W. Churchouse and Thomas Corpe. December 16th. 29th Elizabeth.
22. W. Tucker and T. Churchouse grant to new trustees, as above, the cottage which Chapman occupies. December 20th. 29th Elizabeth.
23. Emmanuel Beeny, of Wokyhole, and John Chapell, of London, grant cottage (22) to new trustees, Robert Godwyn, Thomas Mydleham, Bartholomew Castle, senior, David Trym, J. Boulting, junior, J. Chapell, junior, J. Taylor *alias* Buxton, R. Baker, J. Smyth or Hooper, T. Churchouse, junior,

- E. Hipsly, and H. Beeny. This cottage, Edith Web, widow, lately held. May 8th, 1614.
24. E. Beeny grants to David Trym, J. Chapell, W. Castle, J. Boulting, T. Mydleham, J. Tayler, R. Browning, J. Corpe, J. Smyth, T. Churchouse, junior, E. Hipsley, and R. Poole, the cottage (23) which, Edith, wife of Anthony Fish, now occupies. June 26th, 1622.
25. Above trustees grant to Richard Web, on lives of self, Elizabeth, his wife, and John and Edward, their sons, their cottage (24), and all lands appertaining, except 3 yards in Westfield, of Wookey, lately enclosed. February 20th. 2nd Charles I. 1626.
26. Surviving trustees, David Trym, J. Chapple, T. Corpe, J. Boulting, T. Lyde, and W. Churchouse, grant cottage to Elizabeth, wife of Edward Whiting, of Eson,¹ Mary Boulting, widow, daughter of E. W. and M. B., daughter of M. B., on their lives. Edward Whiting is now in occupation of cottage in right of his wife. April 8th. 17th Charles II. There must have been a new creation of trustees between 24th and 26th.
27. J. Chapell, T. Corpe, and J. Boulting, grant the cottage (26) to John Eyers, of Wookey, carryer, on his own and the lives of Mary and Ruth, his wife and daughter.
With the cottage now goes 2½ acres in Northfield, 2 acres in Eastfield,
June 25th. 6th William and Mary = 1694. Two deeds.
28. Another lease, March 20th. 10th William and Mary = 1698.
29. Another lease, August 25th. 1st Anne = 1702.
30. Purchase by John Stock, of Yardley, of tenement and fifteen acres of land at Yardley, and in the common fields for £120 from Oliver, Earl of Bolingbroke and others, heirs and assignees of Robert Chamberlyn, Esq., Alice, his wife, and others. May 25th. 12th Charles I.
31. May 16th, 1646. Conveyance by J. Stock of his land and tenements to the trustees of Joan Browning's legacy.

¹ i.e. Easton

32. David Trym, J. Chapell, J. Browning, R. Lyde, J. Corpe, R. Hippisley, purchase part of above land of J. Stock and other lands for 2nd Poor Charity out of £50 left by Joan Browning. September 23rd. 23rd Charles I.
On April 19th, 1658, D. T. and J. B. fill up vacancies by appointing G. Trym, T. Corpe, J. Browning, junior, and D. Tutton ; other four being dead.
33. Three deeds relating to creation of new feoffees, for the Browning Charity, viz. : D. Trym, J. Browning, D. Tutton, T. Lyde, R. Turner and T. Corpe. July 13th. 15th Charles II.
34. New Browning trustees, D. Tutton, T. Lyde, T. Corpe, Hugh Merifield, J. Lyde, and R. Lyde.
Three deeds dated October 3rd. 34th Charles II.
35. New Browning Trustees. Three deeds dated December 10th. 7th William III. Hugh Merifield, R. Lyde, J. Stott, John Luffe, J. Poole, and George Brookman.
36. New Browning Trustees. April 28th and May 9th. 12th Anne. John Luffe, John Poole, George Brookman, W. Clarke, W. Barnard, and Joseph Luffe.
37. New Browning Trustees. January 28th. 2nd George II. John Luffe, G. Brookman, J. Luffe, junior, J. Poole, R. Clark, and William Weare.
38. New Browning Trustees. December 31st. 17th George II. R. Clarke, J. Poole, J. Barnard, J. Stott, G. Strode, and G. Cooke, junior.
39. In 1777, G. Strode is sole surviving trustee, and on May 26th, conveys Browning lands to John Band, J. Clark, J. Stott, J. Weare, and T. A. Salmon. Deed not forthcoming.
On February 20th, 1808, T. A. Salmon, Rector of Rodney Stoke, sole surviving trustee, grants Browning lands to J. S. Phillott, vicar of Wookey, E. W. Band, T. B. Weare, J. Pitney, and J. Stephens as the new trustees.
40. Council's Legacy.
W. Chapell bargains for one year his cottage at Henton, called Webb's Cribb, and four acres called Webb's to T.

Strode, J. Luffe, junior, J. Watts, senior and junior, Richard Clarke, George Poole and J. Poole. Conveyance made in order that his usage may be legally turned into their possession. March 24th. 4th George II.

41. March 25th. 4th George II. = 1731. Mr. John Luffe to Mr. Butler. Assignment to attend the Inheritance in Trust for Mr. Strode and others. Council's Charity.
42. August 20. 7th George III. = 1767. Council's Charity. Lease for year by surviving trustees to Baily and Riddick by Richard Clarke and John Poole.
43. March 20th. 7th George III. = 1767. Baily and Riddick to Richard Clarke, John Batten, Thomas Gale, Benjamin Brooks, Francis Sheppard, John Poole, senior, and John Poole, junior. Council's Charity. Lease for a year.
44. March 21st, 1767. Release by above to above new Trustees.
45. October 18th, 1792. Council Charity. Thomas Clark to John Clark and Abraham Stott, to be by them released to T. C. and six or seven other new trustees.
46. October 20th, 1792. John Clark and Abraham Stott convey Council Endowment to Thomas Clark, senior, and Thomas Clark, junior, John Church Clark, William Stott, son of Isaac Stott, David Stott, son of the late James Stott, Thomas Bailey Weare, William Barnard, and Francis Sheppard.

The later church and charity deeds are well known and easily read, and therefore do not call for any note.

For the sake of convenience the following lists give the names of the owners and tenants of the two houses that stood in the Church Barton.

The owners of the Eastern-house were John Warreyn, of Wellesleagh, 1389; John Hillary, Capellanus, de Schirborn, 1433; Thomas Brown, of Yenell; Thomas Browne, of Yenell, son and heir of Richard Browne, of Yenell, 1492; Church Trustees, 1492. The tenants were John Compton, Capellanus Perpetuus; John and Alice Bek, 1389; John Bek and Edith Bek, 1393; John and Isabel Schapel, 1433; John and Joanna Colyer, 1480; John

Selcock, 1488 ; John and Christine Turner, 1492 ; Richard and Alice Fysshe, 1531 : John Dunkerton, Thomas and Isabel Chapman, 1583 ; Richard and Edith Web, 1602. This is the house called Strecchistenement.

The owners of the Western-house were John Carter or Morecock, 1420 ; William Wyllys or Sawyer ; Church Trustees, 1502.

The tenants, as far as I can gather, were Richard and Alice Bockyng, 1420 ; John Spray or Hankyns, 1421 ; John Fish and Alice Touner, 1583.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE FIELD NAMES OF WOOKEY.

THERE is nothing so interesting and valuable, in an historical point of view, as a complete and accurately-spelt list of the names of the fields and hills, and houses and lanes in a parish. Indeed, from them we can almost arrive at a general knowledge of the history of the parish. We look first for those old English names which may tell us of the district before the time of Domesday. In certain cases we may look and discover Celtic names which tell us of the place before our Saxon or English ancestors settled down here. Perhaps occasionally such names tell us of British slaves working for English masters, and calling the districts by names which these masters did not understand. Then in English times, and coming down to the days of Elizabeth, we may look, and will certainly find in such a list, many a hint and much accurate information concerning the old system of agriculture, when the tenants of the Manor lands were villeins of the lord of the manor, and had attached to their houses strips of land in the common fields to till for their own sustenance. We will find the land divided into arable lands, and waste or unenclosed lands. We will discover traces of the paths which lead to these parallel strips; not indeed in the modern lanes, though sometimes in them, but in the names of the fields through which those paths once ran. And coming down to later times, we find the names of many of the leaseholders of the Manor lands attached to the lands which once they cultivated. If the Manor is no longer intact, but as in our own case, has been sold in plots, these names will be especially numerous, because they were the names by which the fields were described when the memorable sale took place. Last of all, there should not be wanting many a hint as to the enclosure of the moors and waste lands of the parish. These

enclosures went on regularly from the sixteenth to the end of the eighteenth century, and invariably leave their traces behind them.

Now it will be probably asked where we are to find the old names. Of course, if we could hold an inquest and get a jury of experienced natives, and go with them from field to field, we would gather together a large amount of information. But as this is practically impossible, the book which will afford us the largest amount of information is the Tithe Commutation Apportionment book, in which the name of every field is recorded. In our own case the value of this list varies very much. In some parts of the parish it contains many valuable old names, but in other parts it is very meagre. This clearly arose from the varying ability of those who were called in to the help of the Commissioners. Some of them knew their lands, and some did not; or if they did, yet they did not know how those names were spelt. But in addition to the Tithe Book, we have in Wookey a large and valuable collection of deeds connected with our Church and Charity endowments, and all of them afford help in this search for old names. The most valuable mine for wealth of this kind is, however, to be found among the Court Rolls and the Rolls of the Hallmotes of the Manor. The bundles of Court Rolls and bailiff's accounts concerning Wookey, which are now in the Lambeth Library, and which I made use of in Chapter ii., assisted most materially in the following collection. The only drawback to them arises from our ignorance as to where these places are. In many cases the names have been lost, and the fields have now got some common and modern name, which tells us nothing of that field's history. It will be found therefore in the list below that I have put down sometimes two different spellings of one word, and probably I have given in some cases an old and a new name for the same field. I have not felt justified in correcting the Tithe Book, or omitting any name recorded in an ancient deed. The list is not a perfect one, and in some cases it is manifestly unsatisfactory. Had I been able to discover any of the Court Rolls subsequent to the year 1553, I might have improved and enlarged it. The numerous fields that

possess names simply descriptive of their size, are chiefly to be found on those moors that were enclosed in 1786. Dennis' plot and Denbis' paddock and Stott's orchard tell us of some of the leaseholders in the days before the Manor was sold and divided. The reeve of Wookey, the Overland and the Folly, refer to the days when the manorial tenants were the lord's villeins. Lastly, it will be noted that there are seven words which end in ham, viz., Bremelham, Fermeryham, Jackwellham, Keynsham, Laborham, Lydeham and Palmersham. If the ending is hām, then probably these are the names of early settlements, and may take us back to the time of Edward's gift to bishop Giso; but if the ending is hăm, then they refer to enclosures on the moors in the vicinity of old houses. Bremel-hăm was probably attached to Bleadeney-mill, and Jackwell-hăm may have been an enclosure belonging to Batch-house, now known as Knowle-farmhouse. Lydeham was probably near to Lydis-close, if it is not an older name for the same field. There was a family in this parish of the name of Lyde during the 16th and 17th centuries. Keynsham was probably the enclosure of a man named Keynes. The Keynes were villeins on the Manor during the 15th and 16th centuries. I have not been able to discover the position of Fermeryham and Palmersham.

THE ACRE.

TWO ACRE.

AFTER STILE.

ALDERS, in Beggarly-leaze.

ALLERED.

ALMSHOUSE CLOSE, in Marley-mead. Portion of an old freehold, held by the Wells Almshouses, in the Manor of Wookey.

ASHAY.

ASHEMORE. Between Castle and Beggarly-leaze.

ATWOOD'S COAT. The hilly slope south of Hembury wood.

BABSTONES. Babblestones, in the hollow between Trenley and Easton-hill.

BALL THORN.

BARROW HILL, overlooking Bleadeney Causeway.

BATCH, a hill,

BATCH HOUSE, now called Knowl-house.

BARLEY BATCH, the northern slope of hill-side of Trenley.

BARROW. Both the isolated hill between Bleadney and Pam-borough and the hill at Hudswell have this name. It gave a name to a local family.

BEAN CLOSE.

BEGGARLY WAY. Badgerlea Way. It occurs in the Court Rolls once as Baggerewey.

BEGGARLY LEAZE. I think there can be no doubt that Beggarly is modern form of Badgerlea.

BENCROFT. Right bank of river, just west of Knowl-bridge. Bean Croft.

BENKNOWL HILL.

BINNINGS HEMBURY.

BLACKPOOL. Left bank of river by the ford, on Knowle road.

BLEADENEY. This word varies in spelling from Bleddenhyth in the spurious charter of Eadward to Bladonhay. Perhaps the earliest is the most correct. The oak piles of the old wharf were dug up but a short time ago.

BORE HAYS, or BOOR HAYS, now called Bove Hays.

BOWERSHILL. The hill on the right-hand side when going from Castle up Callow-hill.

BREMELHAM, probably Brimble or Bramble-ham.

BRIERY Paddock.

BRIMBLE HAY. The field below the second mill at Bleadney.

BROAD MEAD.

BROOK WELL. The spring at Hurstbatch, and also at Yarley.

BROWN'S BATCH.

BRYANT'S GROUND.

BRYANT'S LANE.

BUCKNOWL CLOSE. This must be Ben Knowle Close, as it is on the southern slope of that hill.

BULL BAITING PLOT. North-west slope of Henley-hill, overlooking Gagley mead.

BURTON'S CROFT.

BURR LANDS.

BURYFURLONG. 1461,

BUTTON'S PADDOCK.

BUTTICE PADDOCK.

BUTTS HOUSE. The second house on the left of the road on Hillier's Lane at the top of Yarley.

BUTTICE LANE, the strip of land in the East-field that lead to the strips running east and west.

BUTTS. A field on right of Buttice lane.

BUXTON'S GROUND.

BYFORETHEWAY.

CADBURY. The battle entrenchment.

CALLOW HILL. Bare-hill.

CALVES CLOSE.

CATS HILL.

CASTEL BURG.

CASTLE BRIDGE.

CARPESHYLLE. 1461.

CARP MEAD. The field at the corner of the road leading from Castle lane to Hay hill.

CHAPEL LAND. The site of the old free chapel at Henton, demolished in 1550.

CHURCH FURLONG. A portion of the Church endowment in the common fields of the parish.

CHURCHLANDS.

CINDER MEADS.

CLARKE'S HAYE.

CLAW PIT. A field on northern slope of hill. Perhaps near Clay Pit lane.

CLOVER CLOSE.

COLD HARBOUR. Two fields on higher side of lane, mounting hill beyond Wester's grave.

COAT. Side of a hill on left of road to Yarley, and opposite Worth cottage.

CODBURGMOOR. 1330.

COMMON MEAD.

CONEYBURY.

COOMBEDYCHE.

THE COONCHE, above Wookey-hole.

- COOK'S ORCHARD.
 CORP'S PLOUGH GROUND.
 COPPICE.
 COWWAY CLOSE.
 COWPER'S CROFT.
 CROFT.
 CUFF'S GROUND.
 CUNNIGAR FIELD. Perhaps Coney yard, or the rabbit warren.
 CULVER HILL.
 CULOW HILL PADDOCK.
 DENBIS PADDOCK.
 DENNIS PLOT. Probably taken from the name of the last lord
 of the Manor.
 DRY CLOSE.
 DURSDEAN. Durden, a thicket of wood in a valley. That part
 of Wooley within the limits of the old forest of Mendip.
 DUMMICE LANE, parallel to Buttice lane, and to the west of it.
 EAST CADBURY.
 EASTON HILL.
 EAST COURT YARD.
 EAST MEAD.
 EBBOR. ÆBBEWYRTH. Æbb's settlement.
 ELM CLOSE.
 ELIN CLOSE. The field next but one beyond the School.
 FERMERYHAM. 1461.
 FISHER'S ORCHARD. The first house on the right on the top of
 Yarley.
 THE FOLLY. Perhaps Folkland, a narrow strip of land leading
 to Goarway fields.
 FORD CLOSE.
 FORGET'S CLOSE.
 FURLONG.
 GAGLEY MEAD. Gagel-mead, where myrica gale grows.
 GALES SHORTBRIDGE.
 GASS MILL.
 GASTON. One of the fields on the northern slope of the hill at
 Worth.

GLOVER'S CALLOW HILL.

GOARWAY FIELDS. Goarway was a remnant of the common land, which did not fit in with the furlong strips.

GOSS GROUND. Gorse ground. The field directly over Wookey-hole.

GREAT GROUND.

GREAT HAMBLYN. A field on the top of the lane which leads from Wester's grave to Yarley, at the end of the first turn to the left.

GREEN'S BUSH.

GREENSWAYBUSH.

GREENLANDS BUSH.

GRUTBEDLESS, in Wetmoor. Gravel-bed leaze.

HALF-A-YARDLAND. 31 acres, a common holding of a customary tenant.

HAMM.

HAMS MEAD. Portion of Keynsham meadow.

HANGING. A meadow on side of a hill.

HANG GASTON. The grass enclosure on the side of a hill.

HARE PITS. Perhaps herepath, but see chapter i.

HEMBURY WOOD, formerly about 20 acres; cut down in 1612.

HEMBURY CLOSE.

HENLEY Honey Lea, 1647.

HESKEARD. Ashgarth, the field on side of lane at the back of Mrs. Toogood's house at Worth.

HIGHOVER. High Shore. Side of steep, right bank of river, just before the great bend at Burcot.

HIGHENBURY. Is this the earlier form of Hembury?

HIGHER KNOWL.

HILL END.

HILL HEAD.

HILL TOP CLOSE.

HILL LADDEN.

HOLLY BROOK. Hollow brook. The stream at the bottom of Barley Batch.

HOLLOWAY.

HONEY MEAD.

HOPE. Side of a hill, or low ground amidst hills.

HOPKINS.

HORSE PADDOCK.

HORNSMEAD.

HOUSE DOWN.

HUDDLESWELL, or HUDSWELL, the group of houses on the western slope of Barrow-hill.

HULK ACRE. Hillock acre.

HUNTER'S CLOSE.

HURSTBATCH. Wood on the hill north-east of Marley-mede.

HYDECLVD. 1330.

HYPES. Humpy ground above Callow-hill.

INWICK PADDOCK } Western limit of Bleadney settlement on
INWICK } road to Wedmore.

IRON MILLS. The old mill at Henley.

JACKWELL HAMS. The settlement by the deep rhine (jaque) at Hornsmead, or perhaps so called from an early settlement there of a family of some good name, like Jack. A villein, named William Jackes, is mentioned in 1383.

KEYNSHAM MEAD, near Hornsmead.

KING GASTON. In Knowl-moor.

KNIGHT'S COPPICE.

KNIGHT'S WOOD, or KNYCHESWODE, formerly about five acres. 1343.

KIPPLE.

LABORHAM and LAVERHAM. An early settlement near Callowhill.

LAKENNICH. 1362.

LAKE MEWTH.

LANGDOWN.

LANE END PADDOCK.

LA STOK. The triangular field at junction of lanes from Hem-bury and Oare, near Wester's grave. 1440.

LAVERHAM.

LAX'S CUNNIGAR.

LE GARSTON.

LEG CLOSE, called also Le Lagge. 1461. The field in Knowl-moor at the junction of the mill-stream and the river Axe.

This is the common name for the narrow strip that sometimes projects beyond the usual square shape of a field.

LETNEY, a field by the side of the mill-stream (leat) between Bleadeney and Marchay.

LICHLEGH. 1330.

LIN MOOR. The westernmost limit of Wet-moor, adjoining Knowl-moor before it was enclosed. Lyn welsh for lake.

LINMOOR HILL.

LITTLE HAY BRIDGE, probably Letewey-bridge. Just by this bridge the stream joins the tail-water from the mill below Hurst batch.

LITTLEWOOD.

LITTLE PERRY LAKE.

LITTLE RIPPLE.

LYTHELNYE. Letney.

LONG LAND.

LONG CROFT.

LONG HORNSMEAD.

LONG DOWN.

LONG STRING MEADOW. Southern slope of high ground overlooking Ash-moor.

LOWER LIN MOOR.

LONG LEY.

LONG STYLE CLOSE. Close on steep side of Long String meadow.

LYDEHAM. There was a family named Lyde here for many years. 1461.

LYDIS CLOSE. This most likely is the same enclosure as the preceding. It is on the southern slope of Perry Lake lane.

MACKINNON'S ORCHARD.

MANGANESE GROUND.

MARLEY MEAD.

MARLEY ORCHARD.

MARIGOLD Paddock.

MARK MAIN CLOSE. The high ground above Long String meadow.

MARSHFIELD.

MARSHY MEAD.

MARCESYMEDE.

MARTEYNESEY.

MARTYNSMEDE.

MEADOW GAGLEY.

MEAD END.

MELLIFONT ABBEY A modern name for the old
Rectory-house.

MIDDLE CLOSE.

MILL HOUSE.

MONKSWOOD CLOSE, near Monksford, on road from Wooley to
Yarley.

MONERYSMYLL. 1461. c.f. Peter le Moners. Close Rolls, Ed.
III., p. & cf. 30.

MONKSFORD.

MOOR CLOSE.

MYLHAMS. Several meadow fields on either bank of river near
Monksford.

NARROW WAY.

NEW CLOSE.

NOTTELAK. 1330. Now Nottlich.

NORTHFIELD.

NURSERY.

OARE. Boundary.

OARFIELD CLOSE.

OAK LEAZE.

OLDCLYFFE. 1461.

ORCHARD RIPPLE.

OXLEAZE, north-west of Knowl farm, on the right bank of
the Axe.

OVERLAND. The high ground above Henton Church is now
called Verland or Overland, but I doubt whether the name
belonged to any fixed portion of the Manor.

PADDOCK.

PALMERSHAM.

PARADISE.

PEASCROFT BRIDGE, where the road from Burcot to Wooley
crosses the stream.

PEASFURLONG.

PERRY LAKE CLOSE.

PIGS PADDOCK.

PIN PADDOCK.

PIN LAKE. Spring on side of hill overlooking Beggarly-leaze.
PLANTATION.

PRESSMOOR, also PRESTEMORE. Priest's-moor, the waste land used
by the rector of Wookey, and which was added to the
rectorial glebe after the moors were enclosed.

PREYWASTE.

PREYWATER.

PRIGGERS.

PUNCH BOWL INN.

PYLWATERHORNE.

PYSFURLONG. 1461.

QUAKER'S CLOSE. On the south of the upper road called Perry
Lake lane, running from Castle to Bleadney.

QUARRY GROUND.

RADEPOLE. 1461. Probably Read Pool, the pool that used to
exist just below Read farm, south-east of Hudswell.

RADFORD'S ORCHARD.

REED. Now Read Farm.

REEVE OF WOOKEY, an acre of the portion of common land
assigned to the customary tenant, who acted as reeve for
the year for the lord of the manor.

RING O' BELLS INN.

RIPPLE ORCHARD.

RIGLEY. Ridge lea.

RIPPLEHAY. Ripley hay. The reaping meadow.

RIVERCLOSE.

ROBINS CLOSE.

RODES.

ROOKS.

ROUGH PASTURE.

ROCKS' CLOSE.

ROWELMORE. 1391.

RUSHLEY.

RUSHLANDS. Lands in the former waste lands of Wookey, south-east of Trenley.

RUSHLANDS ORCHARD.

RUBBINGHOUSE PIECE Above Wookey-hole mill.

SAVAGE'S HOME GROUND, the site of the present vicarage.

SAVAGE'S MEAD.

SIDELANDS.

SILVERLAKEMEDE. 1330.

SHEAF FIELDS. The high ground overlooking the western portion of Ashmoor.

SHEEPLAND.

SHOTSBRIDGE. One of the fields south of the Croscombe water, on the left of the road from Castle to Godney.

SMOKE COMBE. East of Ebbor vale.

SPEARING'S ORCHARD.

SPRAGAM CLOSE. In the Wookey Westfield, between the river and the lane, from Wookey to Monksford.

SPRAGGER'S CLOSE. One of these names must be wrong, as the fields are adjacent.

SOUTH HILL.

SHOP CLOSE. A portion of the large field between Wester's grave and Oare.

STOCK'S PADDOCK.

STARVE ACRE.

STACKS GROUND.

STEAN LANDS. Stone Lands

STEEP LAND.

STOKESLYNCHESHAM. 1383. John Stokelyng is one of the Jury for the Nonæ Assessment, 1340. c. f. p. 80.

STOTT'S ORCHARD.

STROUD, also called STRODEBOSCUS. The sub-dean's wood at the end of Buttice lane

STROUD BOTTOM, under Easton-hill. Stroud, low ground near water.

STONE MEADOW.

STUBBY CLOSE.

STONY GROUND.

STONELEY. On the high ground above Yarley.

STARVEGATE CLOSE.

SULLOW SHARE PLOT Ploughshare plot. A field on the right as one goes up Callow-hill lane.

SWATCH. Swash ; puddle of water.

STUBBLE GROUND.

SYLVERLAKEMEDE.

TEAZIL CLOSE.

TIBB'S ORCHARD.

TITLANDS.

TRENBY. Probably a corruption of the next name.

TRENLEY.

TRUCKLEPATH. A path only large enough "to roll" a small barrow. A field between Yarley and Knowl hill, in Linmoor, through which runs a foot-path.

THE PIECE.

TOAD ACRE.

TOP GROUND.

TURN HILL.

TURN YARDS.

TWIN HILL FIELD.

TYNING. An enclosure.

TYRLICKMEDE, between Ashmoor and Beggarly leaze.

WALFURLONG. 1461.

WASP HILL ORCHARD.

WATCH CLOSE.

WATER'S GRAVE.

WATERLYWAY ORCHARD, probably Waterleteway Orchard, on the side of the Mendip mills.

WELLWAY ORCHARD.

WELL CLOSE.

WEBB'S GRIBS. I think this ought to be Crib.

WEARY FURLONG. The large field, at the back of the houses in the lower village, which reaches to the river at Preywater bridge.

WESTLEYELAND. 1391.

WESTMEAD.

WESTER'S GRAVE.

WHAT HILL. North-east of Knight's wood. Probably Wourt-hill from Æbbawurt. Weordig, an estate or farm.

WITHY BED.

WORTH.

WOOKEY, the only other forms are Woky, Okey, and Ochie. If it is not connected with Wokob, there may be some connection with "Wok" in Woking and Wokingham.

WOOKEY FIELD.

WOOLLEN'S CLOSE.

WOOLLEN'S TWO ACRE.

WOOLLEN'S Paddock.

WOODLANDS.

WOODFALL.

YARDS

YONDER KNOWL.

YARDLEY. Formerly Gyrddleg, or Yleg. The yard meadow, meadow of sixty acres.

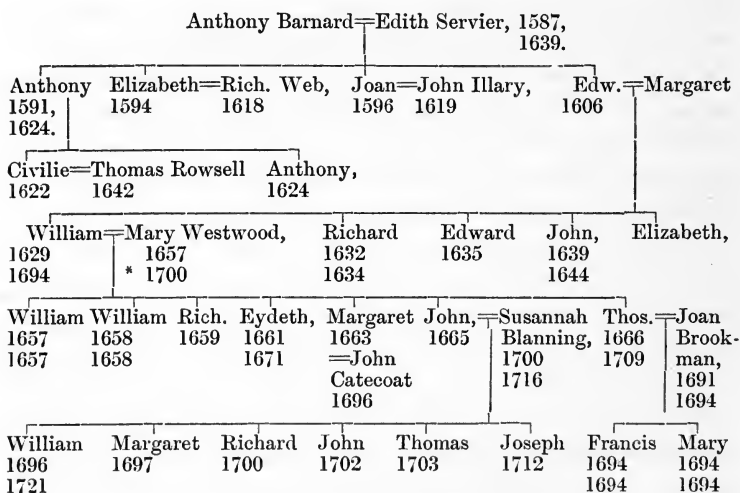
CHAPTER IX.

LOCAL FAMILIES.

HOWEVER well we may know the laws and ways by which surnames arose, yet there is always a peculiar pleasure in finding instances and examples of those methods among the names of the inhabitants of the parish in which one is interested. In the *Inspeximus* of Thomas of Bath, we find two forms in existence. There is the man distinguished by his connection with his father's name, and there is his father described in connection with his residence. We have, first of all, Radulphus de la Cnoll, and then we have Walcher, or Wacher, described as the son of Ralph. This is in the early years of the 13th century. Then towards the end of that century we have men described by the nature of their work—there is Hugh le Deygh, and John le Felaghe, and Adam le Tailler. At the same time we meet with several instances of surnames arising from the locality of a man's house. There is John atte Heighelme, Henry atte Watere, and Gilbert atte Wyk. Wyk is Woky, for we find that one of the first fields in the parish, as one comes from Theale is called Inwick. The water is possibly that at Wookey-hole. Then in the next century we get Richard atte Putte, so-called probably from the lias quarry above Yarley; Hugh atte Chapele, called so from the old free chapel at Henton; Alice atte Castell, which needs no explanation; John atte Crosse, from the proximity of his house either to the old cross at Castle, or to that at Yarley. Then comes Richard atte Naysch, and Agnes atte Berwe; which latter name appears also as atte Barwe, and refers to the Barrow at Hudswill. Later on in the 15th century we have John atte Hawe, and John de Cadbury, and John le Here and William atte Bergh; and in the 16th century John Atwill, or atte Well, a name which finds a place among the

the list of vicars at that time, and many a man called atte Churchouse. These are the beginning of the words, and as is often the case, they are far more interesting than their modern representatives. But yet these modern forms exist here in our parish, and we do well to connect them with their ancestors. Still we have our Days, and Pitts, and Chapells, and Churches, or Churchouses, and Castles, Waters, Taylors, Atwills, Barrows, and Crosses, good English names, which we hope may long exist to tell of our local history, and give examples of the growth of our surnames. In the accompanying notes on the Wookey families I have not ventured to give many genealogies, because I desire to be as accurate as possible, and though I may in cases have felt sure of my connecting link, yet because I have not any evidence for them, I have left these genealogies imperfect and fragmentary. The Barnards and the Brownings occupy much space in the register during the reign of Elizabeth, but the former migrated to Wells parish, and the latter to Glastonbury, in the 18th century, and so they have lost their claim to be reckoned as old Wookey families. The Days have baffled all my efforts to arrange the generations into a pedigree, and have ever and anon brought in fresh Days from Axbridge or Wells. The Stotte's and the Clarkes' reach back into the old days of villenage. John Stott is bishop's reeve in 1461, and there were several Clerks, or Clarkes, as the name is often spelt, in that same year. The Glanvilles came from Wedmore, and they are of great antiquity. But as it is impossible to arrange all their pedigrees, so it is unnecessary to refer to every family now existing here. The accompanying notes have been compiled after considerable research; and I should much wish, were it possible, and the scope of my work allowed, to have made this chapter much fuller and the pedigrees more perfect. Since, however, this required a study of many ancient wills and many a pile of old brown family papers such as exist, I know, in several families in this parish, I am obliged to relinquish my search. The wills of Wookey are few and not ancient. All the records of the old peculiar jurisdiction of the subdean were badly kept, and but a scanty fragment of them has found its way into the district Probate Office. The family papers are still kept from me.

Barnard.—For some time past I have been searching the parish for the old tombstones that from time to time have been sold by previous churchwardens as useless lumber. The last that I rescued was on its face in the yard of the Church farm, and belonged to the Barnard family. The Barnards are a very old family, and were tenants of the manorial lands for several centuries. The first wedding recorded in the register is that of John Barnard and Elizabeth Plomby in 1565. It would be impossible to give full pedigrees of all the families of this name; but I state below that of the William Barnard, who died in 1694, and whose tombstone I have lately rescued.



Where a second date is given below the first, it refers to the death of that person, and the first date after a marriage is the date of the marriage.

Browning.—The family of Browning, as far as I can discover, was settled on one of the manor holdings in the tithing of Yarley. They were much mixed up with the Buxtons and Edwards during the early years of the 17th century, and they were at one time certainly given to Puritanism. John Browning, in 1624, left money for the endowment of a preachship here, and Joan Browning, the widow, who died in 1639, left that £50 with which our endowment for the Second Poor Charity began.

I have not been able to make out a pedigree of them, because they are so many in number during the early years of our register, that I cannot do anything more than guess at their relationship. In 1597 there are three John Brownings settled at Yarley, and one Edward Browning. In 1641 there is a Robert Browning settled there. Joan Browning, our benefactress, was a Lyde, and married John Browning, Senr., in 1599. Her husband died before 1620, and it was her son John, born in 1600, who in 1625 endowed the preachership.

Buxton.—The Buxton family had great influence in this family during the early part of the 17th century. They were strong Puritans, and when in 1624 Mr. John Browning, of Yarley, left money for the endowment of a preaching minister, Mr. Anthonie Buxton accepted the post, and was probably a thorn in the flesh to the old vicar, Mr. Middleham, from 1624 to 1635, when Mr. Buxton died. I have not been able to make a pedigree of this family, but it appears that Thomas Buxton, or Buckston, as the name is sometimes spelt, was one of the many who emigrated from Somerset to New England. In 1657, Thomas' sons, John and Anthony, returned to Somerset on a visit, and died and were buried here in February, 1658. They seemed to have stayed with their uncle, John Buckston, at Yarley, as all three died within a week of one another, and possibly were carried off by some fever. The Buxtons used to be called Taylors, senr., and the first of the family that I can find are Robert Taylor, senr., in 1562, and Robert Taylor, Junr., in 1597. The former died in 1611, and the latter in 1614. Robert Taylor, Senr., had two sons, Robert and Anthony, and these two both had sons named John. John, Robert's son, becomes "Taylor, *alias* Buxton," and that description clings to the family all through the seventeenth century. He married, in 1594, Joan Stott, and had issue Robert, 1599; Anthony, 1601; John, 1603; James, 1604; Joan, 1606; and Mary, who died in 1612. This John died in 1614. Anthony's son, who is described as John Taylor, *alias* Buxton, Junr., married in 1599 Isabel Browning, and had issue Mary, 1600; John, 1601; Thomas, 1602-1604; William, 1604; Thomas, 1606; Christian, 1607; and Anthony,

1609. He died, I think, in 1628. Anthony was the young minister of 1635, Thomas went to New England, probably with the Illarys and other Somerset folk in 1643, and John settled at Yarley, and died with his nephews in 1658.

Chapell.—The Chapell family is one of great antiquity, and derived their name from the free chapel of St. Thomas at Henton. When the registers begin in 1560, there are so many families of that name that I find it impossible to give a pedigree of any length of any one branch. The first notice I have is of a John atte Chapple in 1389. In 1420 we have mentioned in the parish deeds a John atte Chapple de Henton juxta Woky. In 1433 we have a John Chapel and Isabella, his wife. In 1488 a John Chapel is mentioned, and three years later, two of that name, a senior and a junior, are mentioned as trustees of the church endowments. In 1522 there is a John Chapel, of Woky, and a William Chapel, of Henton. This latter is the gentleman who pulled down Henton Free Chapel. In 1616, a John Chapel, of the City of London, is mentioned as one of the Church Lands' Trustees, and towards the end of this century two blacksmiths at Henton were called John Chapel. During the first hundred years of our registers there are eleven marriages of Chapels, thirteen births, and sixteen deaths. During the eighteenth century there are many more entries in the books, but now there are no longer any families of that name here, though the name still exists in the surrounding villages.

Churchouse.—I have found no record of a building called the Church-house earlier than the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but the family of Churchouse is recorded as belonging to Wookey more than century before that. There were two families of that name in 1522, in the tithing of Yarley, which included Henton, as a Richard and a Thomas Churchouse appears as contributing to the Lay Subsidy. Richard Churchouse appear as a witness at the signing of one of the Church deeds in 1492. William Churchouse appears as the bishop's bailiff in the Valor Ecclesiasticus 1541, and a John Churchouse is recorded among the villeins at the Hockday Hallmote of 1432. The name occurs during the 17th

century among the lists of Churchwardens and Church Trustees, and towards the end of the century they were leaseholders of manorial tenements at Yarley and in Henton. It is to be regretted that they have allowed their name to sink down into the meaningless modern form Churches. Perhaps the C among the initials on the chimney stone in some of the houses near Yarley, if it does not refer to Clarke, stands for Churchouse.

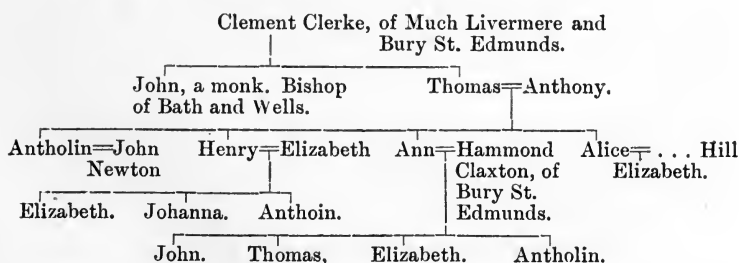
Clarke.—The following notes concerning the Clerkes or Clarkes I have been able to gather from various sources :—

The name is a common one, and occurs in the parish papers during the time of Henry VII. In 1488 a John Clerke witnesses the signature of Thomas Brown.

In 1491 a Thomas Clerke, senior, and Thomas Clerke, junior, became trustees of the church endowments.

In 1502 a Thomas Clerke again appears as one of the trustees.

Thomas Clerke.—The leaseholder of the Manor-house was a brother of John Clerke, the bishop of Bath and Wells. Now Thomas Clerke, in his will, leaves 3s. 4d. to the church of Much Livermere in Suffolk. In 1502 the will of Clement Clerke, of Much Livermere, is proved, and in it mention is made of a son, Thomas, and several brothers who were monks. Hence I think the following pedigree will perhaps be correct :—



Thomas Clerke was elected M.P. for Wells in 1547, and continued to represent the city for six years. He died March 2nd, 1555-6, and is buried in our S. E. Chapel. His will is proved at London on May 23rd of the same year. It was made November 23rd, 1554, and from it I extract the following items :—

First,—I bequeath my bodye to Christian buriall in the church of Wookey, or where yt shall please my executors or where such as shall have the order thereof may think convenient.

I give to the Cathedral Church of Wells 3s. 4d., to the Church of Wookey 6s. 8d., Lockinge 3s. 4d, Kingesten Seymer 3s. 4d., Great Livermere, in the county of Suffolk, 3s. 4d., towards the reparation of every the said churches, and to be prayed for.

Item. I will that there be twentye marks of lawfull money bestowed among the poor people of Wells and Wookye, in manner and form following: that is, ten marks the day of my burial, five marks the month after, and other five marks the end of the year next after my decease.¹

Item. I will that there be other twenty marks delivered shortly after my decease, to be employed and bestowed in the reparacyons and amending of the high way between Wookey and Wells.

Then follow bequests and legacies to his children and grandchildren. He gives “to my friend, Dr. Egeworth, a pott of silver with a cover marked with T. and C.” and “to my Lord Busshopp, of Bath and Wells, Doctor Bourne, one ewer of silver parcell gilte.” He leaves to his servant, William Gervys, a life interest in his mill and ground at Keward. To his son-in-law, Hamond Claxton, he leaves his barber’s bason and ewer of silver. He makes Anthoin his wife, and Hamond Claxton his executors. The will is signed by John Clarke, Thomas Clerke, Henry Howe, John Wylcocks.

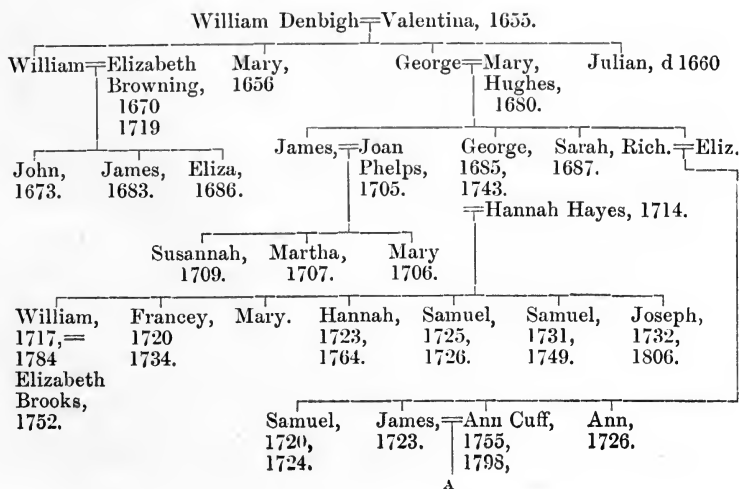
The John Clerke and John Wylcocks are Wookey people and his neighbours at the Manor House. Henry Howe was vicar of Wookey at the time.

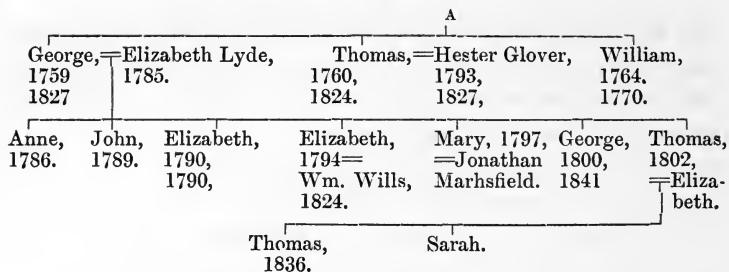
In S. Cuthbert’s Church in Wells is a tablet to a Clara Clerke, 1547, and an effigy of a certain Henry Clerke, and possibly this is the son of Thomas Clerke. Henry Clerke died in 1574, and in his will desired to be buried near his daughter, Elizabeth. He mentions his wife, Elizabeth, and his sons, William and Thomas,

¹ This Trental and Anniversary dole clearly shows the mind of Thomas Clerke.

and his cousin, Sir Rowland Clarke. Subdean Bowerman, rector of Wookey, makes a Henry Clarke one of the trustees of his bequest of £20 to the parish. Agnes Clarke, a widow, was buried in 1572. The inscription on Thomas Clarke's tomb in the church is: "Here lyeth the body of Thomas Clarke, Esquire, and Anthony, his wife, whiche Thomas departed in God the 2nd day of March, 1555, and also Anthony departed the — day of — of whose soul God have mercy." I would caution readers, however, about the parentage of Thomas Clarke, because it is only a probable one. The name was common all over England. There was a Thomas Clarke, senr. in Wookey in 1491, and many others before that date; and in several parishes in the diocese I have met with Clarkes during the 16th century, but there can be no doubt that Thomas Clerke, of the Manor-house, was a stranger to the parish.

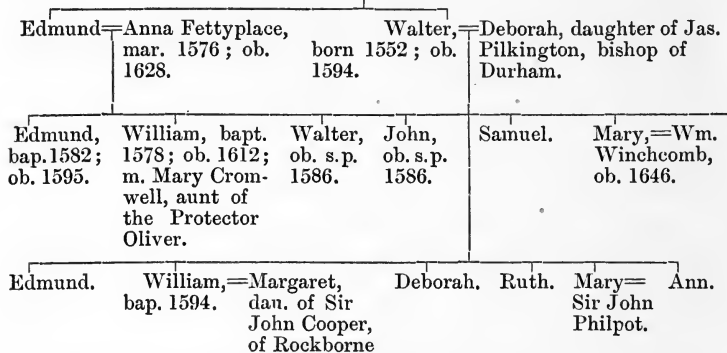
Denbe.—The following pedigree of the Denbees I have been able to make out entirely from the Parish Registers, and from the bundle of family papers which in this case I have been allowed to inspect. I can vouch for its accuracy. The name is variously spelt Denbeigh, Denby, Denbé, and Denbee. I find the name in the 16th century, but cannot connect the entries earlier than the middle of the seventeenth.





Dunche.—The following pedigree of the Dunches will help to explain the history of the Manor :

William Dunch, =Mary, daughter of William Baron,
of London and Little Wytnam; ob. of London; died 1605.
1597.

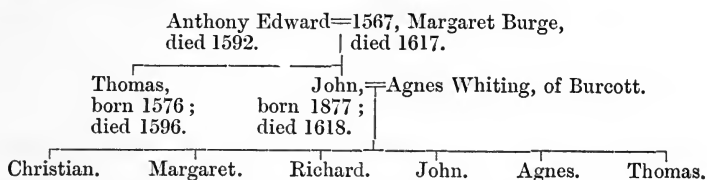


Edwards.—I have found it quite impossible to trace up the pedigree of the family of Edwards. I find a John Edwards, junr., mentioned in 1421, who was probably a villein on the manor. In 1461 a John Edwards rented the Bledeney corn mill of the bishops, at a rental of £5 13s. 4d. a year. A John Edwards was appointed Vicar in 1477, and resigned his benefice in 1506, but was alive in 1516. At that time there was also,

c. f. Noble's Memoirs of Protectoral House of Cromwell, ed. 1787, vol. 2, p. 156. In Harl. MSS. 1139, fol. 121c. Walter appears as the elder son of Wm. Dunch, and the second son is called Edward; but as there certainly was an Edmund Dunch, and as no Edmund appears in this MSS. until 1603, there can be hardly any doubt that the reading adopted was correct. Whether Edmund was older than Walter or not I cannot say.

The first date after a marriage is the date of that event, and in all cases the second date is that of the death.

in addition, a Walter Edward and a Thomas Edward. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth there were two families at least, of which the heads were John Edward and Anthony Edward; of this latter I can give a short pedigree.



In 1580 there was a Richard Edward of Yardley and a John Edward of Ripple.

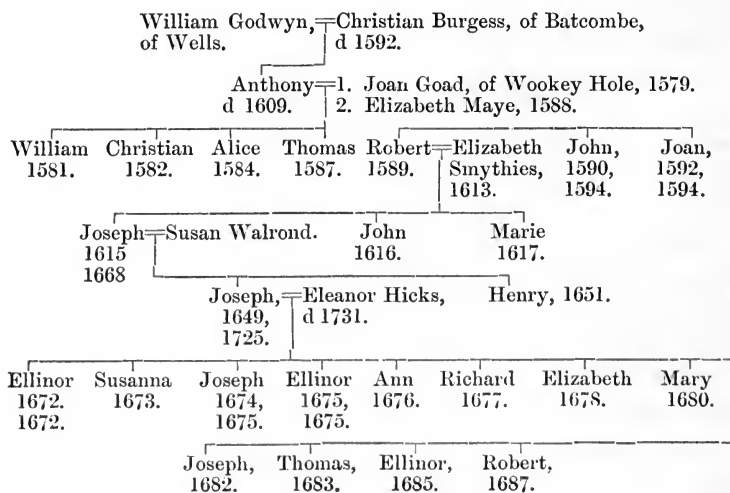
There is a will of Alice Edward of April 24th, 1627. She left sixpence to the parish church and sixpence to the poor of the parish. This Alice was a Brownynge, and married William Edward in 1588; she does not appear to have any sons, as she bequeaths her property to her son-in-law and her relations on her own side.

Thomas, the son of Anthony, who died in 1596, is the exemplary young man whose will is given among the extracts from the Registers.

Godwin.—The family of the Godwins were connected with Wookey for many years, and they held a lease of, and probably occupied the Parsonage House for 170 years. The lease of the Rectory to Mr. William Godwyn for 80 years, in 1548, is the earliest record I have found which connects them with the parish. The pedigree is very confusing, for there was a large family of the name in Wells, and at one time there was a family at Burcot, and one at Wookey Hole in addition to that at the Rectory. Mr. William Godwyn was not buried here as far as I can gather from our records, but his son, Anthony, was twice married in the church here. He spent much of his time and of his money over some law suits, and died in London, and is buried in S. Clement Dane's Church. What were the causes of all his troubles, and the particular law suit which cost him so much, I do not know. His will was proved March, 1610, and bears on the face of it

traces of that sorrow which comes of a weariness of controversy. His son, William, seems to have offended him, for in the will he leaves him only 40/- to buy a ring with, at the same time uttering a fervent wish that God might convert him and make him an honest man. Robert, the third son, succeeds his father in the Rectory House. At his father's death he was still under age, and the lease of the property, which was drawing to a close, was renewed before the year 1628 by Mr. William Prowse, on the lives of Robert and his wife, Elizabeth, and their sons, Joseph and Edward. Robert had married in 1613 Elizabeth Smithies, of Wrington, and his father-in-law, Mr. John Smithies, in his will, 1626, speaks of his son-in-law, Robert Godwin, as a "man not conformable to the laws of the Church of England." This opinion is confirmed by the fact that in 1641 he pays a tax of £2 as a recusant. The will of Robert Godwin is proved July 26th, 1664. In it he describes himself, at the time when he wrote it, as old and infirm.

Joseph Godwyn, his grandson, gets a lease of the Rectory in 1681, on his own life, and of Eleanor, his wife, and Richard, his son. In the following list I have only inserted the names of those in immediate relationship to the tenants of the Parsonage House.



Only the second Mr. Joseph Godwyn and his wife were buried here, and the only monument we have belonging to them consists of a small slab in the pavement at the foot of the Clerk tomb, with the inscription, "The daughter of Joseph Godwyn, who died the 30th of January, 1672." This was the eldest child, Eleanor, and the first of the three daughters who received their mother's name. She was ten months old, having been baptized March 30, 1672, and therefore the modern date of her death would be 1673.

The will of the former Joseph Godwin was proved in September, 1668. There exists an inventory of his personal property at Wookey, which was signed by Mr. Thomas Muttelbury of the Manor House, Stephen Weare, the then parish clerk, and Robert Elford, a yeoman. The rooms of the parsonage house are thus enumerated: the hall, parlour, kitchen, room by the kitchen, hall chamber, long chamber, chamber within the long chamber, little chamber within the hall chamber, and the study chamber. His personality is reckoned as worth £615. He probably died in Wells, for his bed and feather boulder is mentioned as lying there.

Muttlebury.—The family of Muttelbury lived here during the latter portion of the 17th century, and for sixteen years in the 18th century. Probably Mr. T. Muttelbury inhabited the Manor House after Mr. David Trym's death. His family was as follows:

Thomas Muttelbury, d. 1708				1. Francis Dickinson, d 1691. 2. Mary Muttelbury			
Margaret	Mary	Frances	Thomas	Charles	Katherine	Wynefred	Thomas
				John, = Mary			
				b. 1689			
				d. 1715			

Thomas Muttelbury's will was proved October 30th, 1711. He has conveyed to Frances Day, of Wells, his manor of Bradney for his son, and for raising portions for his daughters. He mentions Mary, Frances, Catherine, and Wyneford, and his son, John and his wife, Mary. He gives his manor house of Wookey to his son, John, for the interest and term he has in it. John is sole executor, and it would appear that both Thomases, Charles and Margaret, were dead before the will was made.

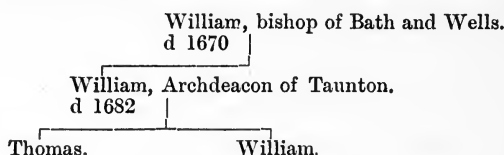
John's will was proved November 19th, 1715. He left to his wife, Mary, the manor house of Wookey, where he now lives, and which he or others for him hold on a lease from John Rolle.

He leaves 20/- for a ring to Frances Wilkins, of Leicester, probably his sister who had married in the interval.

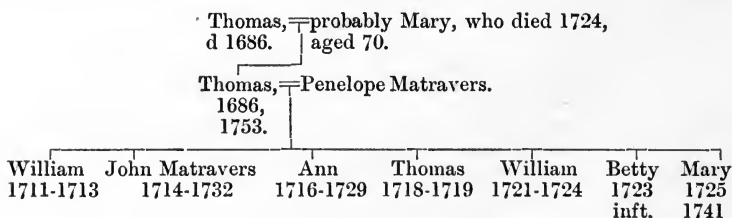
Peirs.—The following notes on the Peirs family are too disconnected to allow me to make up a pedigree of the family, but as far as I state them, I think they are correct.

Thomas Peirs, of Wells, died in 1686; he then left £100 for the purchase of an interest in Wookey Parsonage for the child, his wife "now goeth with," if it proved a male.

William Archdeacon, of Taunton, had two sons, Thomas and William. He was the son of William Peirs, bishop of Bath and Wells, 1632-1670, and died 1682. We have then



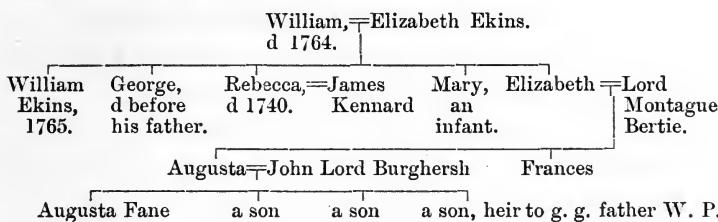
Next, since the child mentioned above proved to be a boy, we have the following pedigree :



Thomas Peirs, who is styled in his will, dated October 24th, 1752, as of Wells, makes his kinsman, William Ekins Peirs, his sole heir and executor of all his lands, but he does not name his possessions.

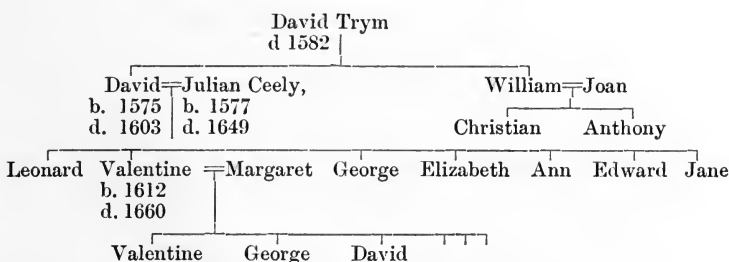
Among the grandsons of William Peirs the Archdeacon was one William Piers who, in 1708, married Elizabeth Ekins, of Baltonsborough—whether he was an elder brother of Thomas,

who was born in 1686, I cannot say. However, from that marriage we have the following pedigree :



Thomas Peirs, who died in 1753, in his will, dated October 24th, 1752, makes his kinsman, William Ekins Peirs, his sole heir and executor of all his lands ; but he does not state exactly either his relationship or his lands. William Ekins Peirs was a barrister. His will was proved in London, February 5th, 1765. He entailed all his estates on his sister, Lady Elizabeth Montague Bertie, with remainder to Frances Bertie. He recommends to his sister his servant, Henry Mackennin, to be employed in laying out improvements ; she leaves Mackinnin £100.

Trym.—The Tryms lived at the Manor House during the first half of the 17th century, and probably during the latter half of the sixteenth. The following pedigree is, I think, correct ; but I have not evidence for the first David being the father of William, though, I think, it is probable.



Valentine Trym's will was proved August 14th, 1660. He desires that a blue stone be laid on him, and he leaves 20/- to the poor of Wells, 10/- to the Wells almshouse, and 10/- to the poor of Wookey. He leaves to his wife his tenement at Milton and some land at Chesterhill. He conveys to trustees his manor house at Evererich, which he held of Thos. Bennett, Esq., for 99 years, to

be sold for portions for his daughters, but he does not mention them by name.

A William Trym is mentioned in 1540 in the account of the S. John the Baptist, Halmote, as admitted to the office of Messor.

David was buried in the south-east chapel, and on a tablet on the wall is the following account of the family :—

“Underneath lye the bodies of David Trym, gent, and Julian, his wife. Shee (of y^e family of y^e Ceelys) died Jan^y. 6, 1663, aged 88. (Near them lye also Edward and Jane, their son and daughter) To whose dear memories Anna, their 2nd daughter, wife to Dr. Robert Peirce, of Bathe, dedicated this small monument.—Requiescant in pace.

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